DC's YOUNG ANIMAL 1

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS

MILK WARS PART FIVE

DC

DOOM PATROL™

COMIC INSIDE!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA™

STEVE ORLANDO GERARD WAY DALE EAGLESHAM NICK DERINGTON TAMRA BONVILLAIN MARISSA LOUISE

The showdown you've been waiting for begins!

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LEE WEEKS BA

DEATHSTROKE VS. BATMAN

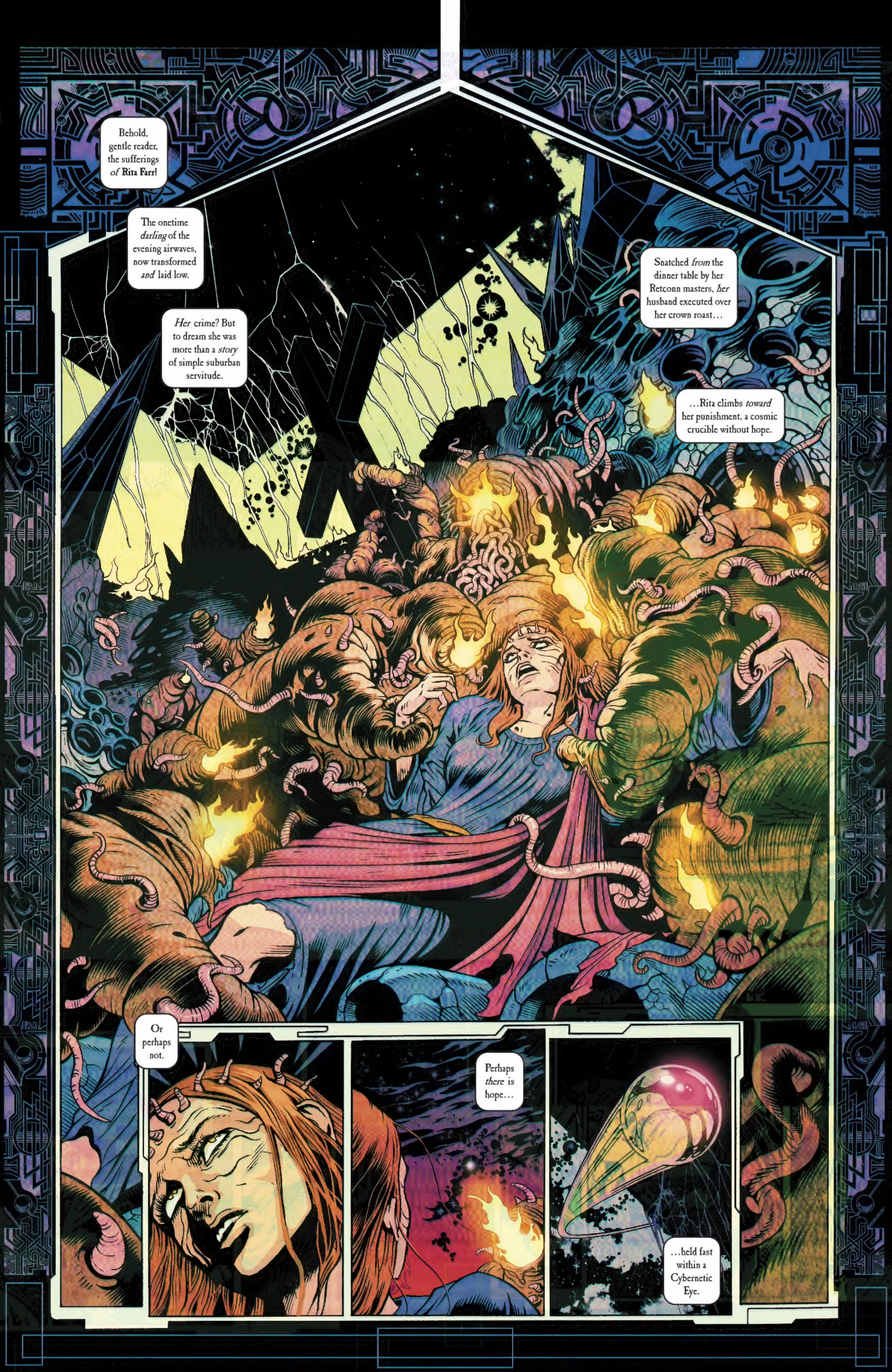
A 6-PART series within a series!

DC UNIVERSE

WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

ART BY CARLO PAGULAYAN

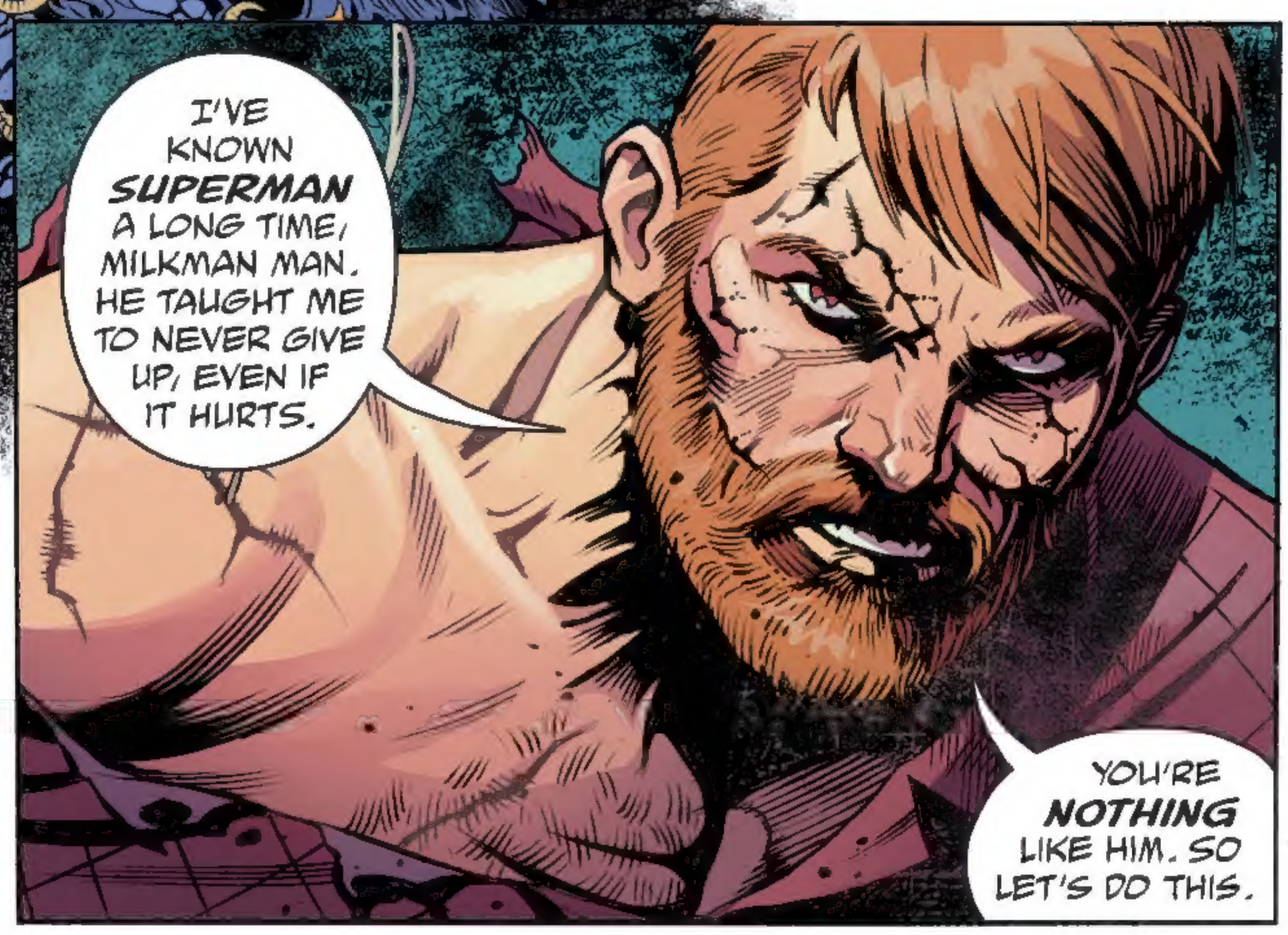
BEGINNING IN *DEATHSTROKE* #30 IN APRIL


Behold, gentle reader, the sufferings *of* **Rita Farr!**
The onetime *darling* of the evening airwaves, now transformed *and* laid low.
Her crime? But to dream she was more than a *story* of simple suburban servitude.
Snatched *from* the dinner table by her Retconn masters, *her* husband executed over her crown roast…
…Rita climbs *toward* her punishment, a cosmic crucible without hope.
Or perhaps not.
Perhaps *there* is hope…
…held fast within a Cybernetic Eye.

FINAL HEAVEN. RETCONN OFFICES.
R
R
CAVE CARSON, THE FAMOUS EXPLORER.

FZZZZT
HNNNNNG
BET YOU WISH YOU HAD A HOLE TO HIDE IN NOW.

YOU JETTISONED YOUR EYE BEFORE YOU WERE CAPTURED. I'LL ASK AGAIN. WHERE IS IT?!
FZZZT
TELL ME, YOU STUPID BEARD-JOCKEY. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT AGAINST RETCONN'S SUPERMAN?


I'VE KNOWN SUPERMAN A LONG TIME, MILKMAN MAN. HE TAUGHT ME TO NEVER GIVE UP, EVEN IF IT HURTS.
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM. SO LET'S DO THIS.

FZZZZT
...I KNOW I'M A BAD COPY. BUT I'M THEIR BAD COPY.
THIS IS ALL I HAVE NOW, CARSON...LIES, MARKETING AND THE RETCONN WAY...

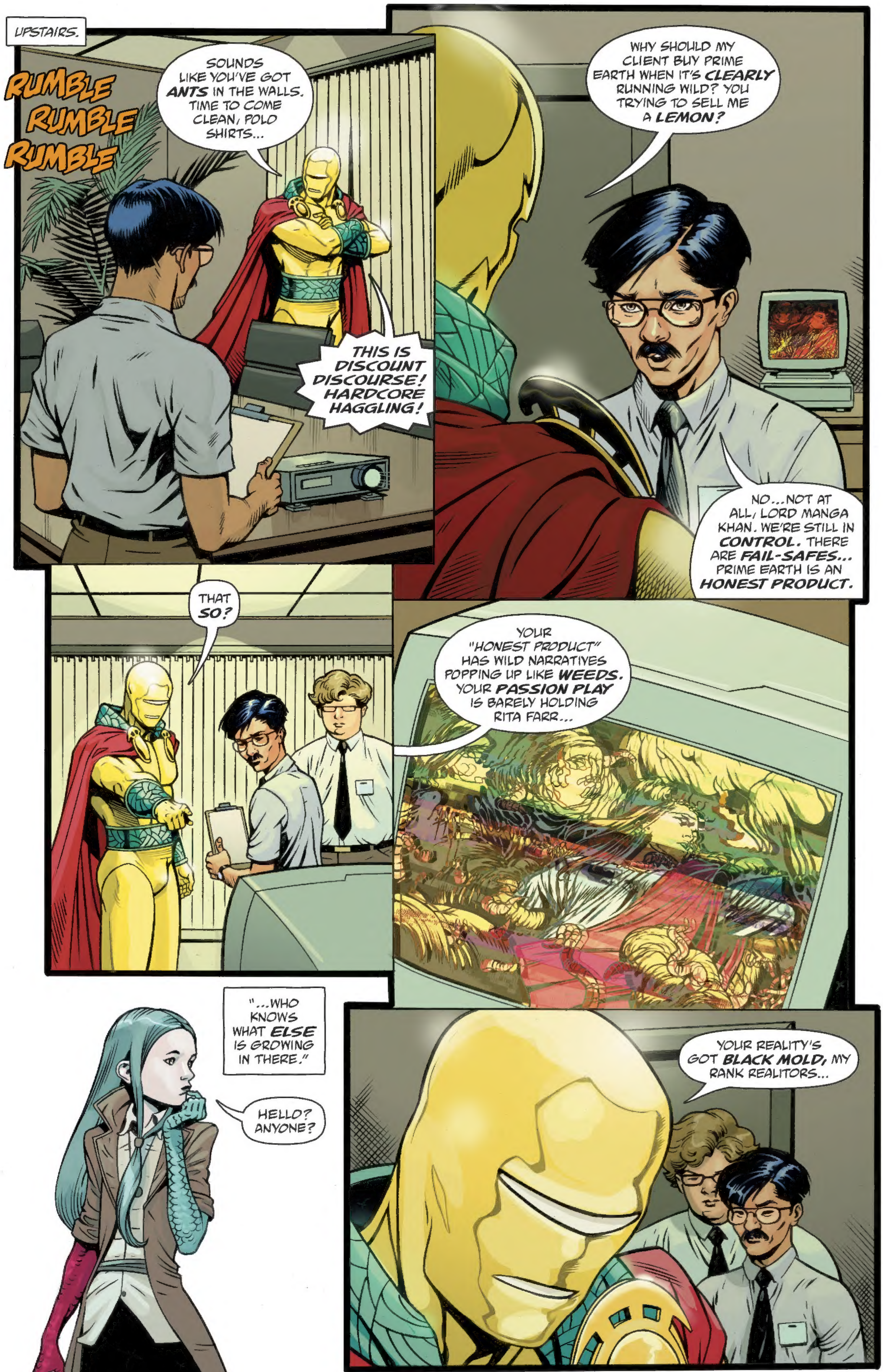
TIME FOR YOUR DAILY DOSE.
FZZZZT

WHERE ARE SWAMP THING AND YOUR FAMILY?
HOW DID YOU FREE THE DREAMERS?
HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND RETCONN?!
POP
MUST'VE BEEN A FORTUNE COOKIE.
FREEING THE DREAMERS WASN'T ENOUGH. WE'RE STILL IN BUSINESS. YOUR "PLAN" DOESN'T MATTER.
IF YOU ACT UP? RETCONN WILL ADJUST IT. THEY'RE STILL FINDING NEW WAYS TO WHIP RITA FARR.
I CAN KILL YOU A THOUSAND TIMES, ADJUST IT, AND DO IT AGAIN.
"IT'S HOPELESS."
VREEEE
WHAT?
SQUIZZLE
ZINK
HOPELESS? ONE SECOND, MILKMAN MAN...

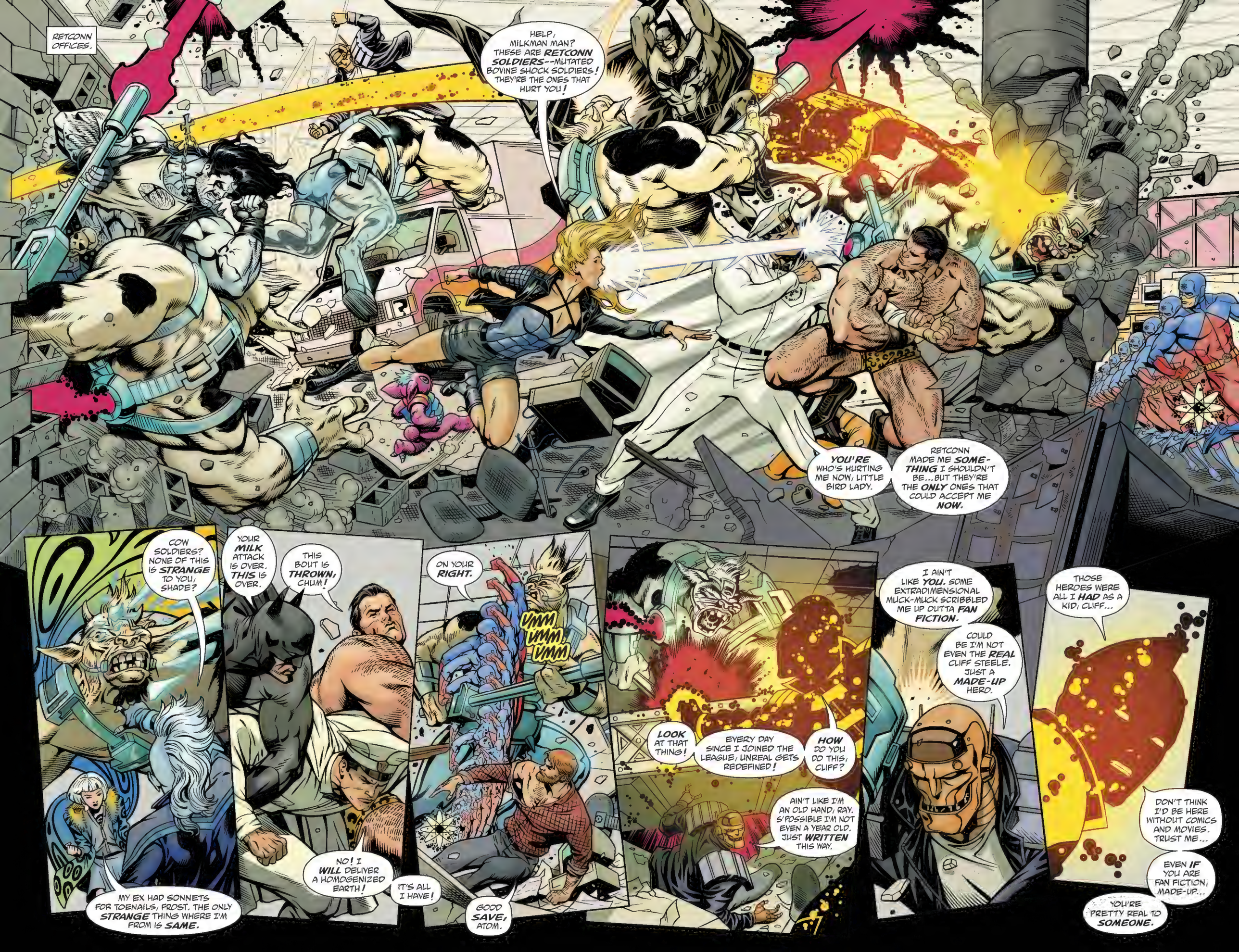
ZZOOOOM
I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE.

RUNNING FROM A PROBLEM'S NO GOOD, MILKMAN MAN. WE TEND TO CATCH UP WITH YOU.
ALMOST TOO LATE, BUT YOUR EYE FOUND US. GOOD WORK, CARSON.
SUPERMAN SAID YOU WERE TO THE POINT, BATMAN.
YOU WEIRDOS THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?
THE ONLY THING YOU'LL DO IS PUT A SHIRT ON, MENTALLO... AND STOP GIVING ME LIP!
YOU PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE HERE! YOU... YOU SAW ME CRY!
YOU KNOW I'M A RETCONN COPY! BORN A BLANK REALITY-SHATTERING INFANT!
CAREFUL, JANE--ALL SUPERMAN'S POWER...NONE OF THE GOODNESS.
I'VE GOT TO TRY, VIXEN.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. TO HELP YOU! YOU'RE AS MUCH A VICTIM OF RETCONN AS ANY OF US.
HELP ME? NO...
YOU... YOU CAME TO WATCH ME SINK EVEN LOWER THAN HAPPY HARBOR.
I'M... I'M NOT A VICTIM...

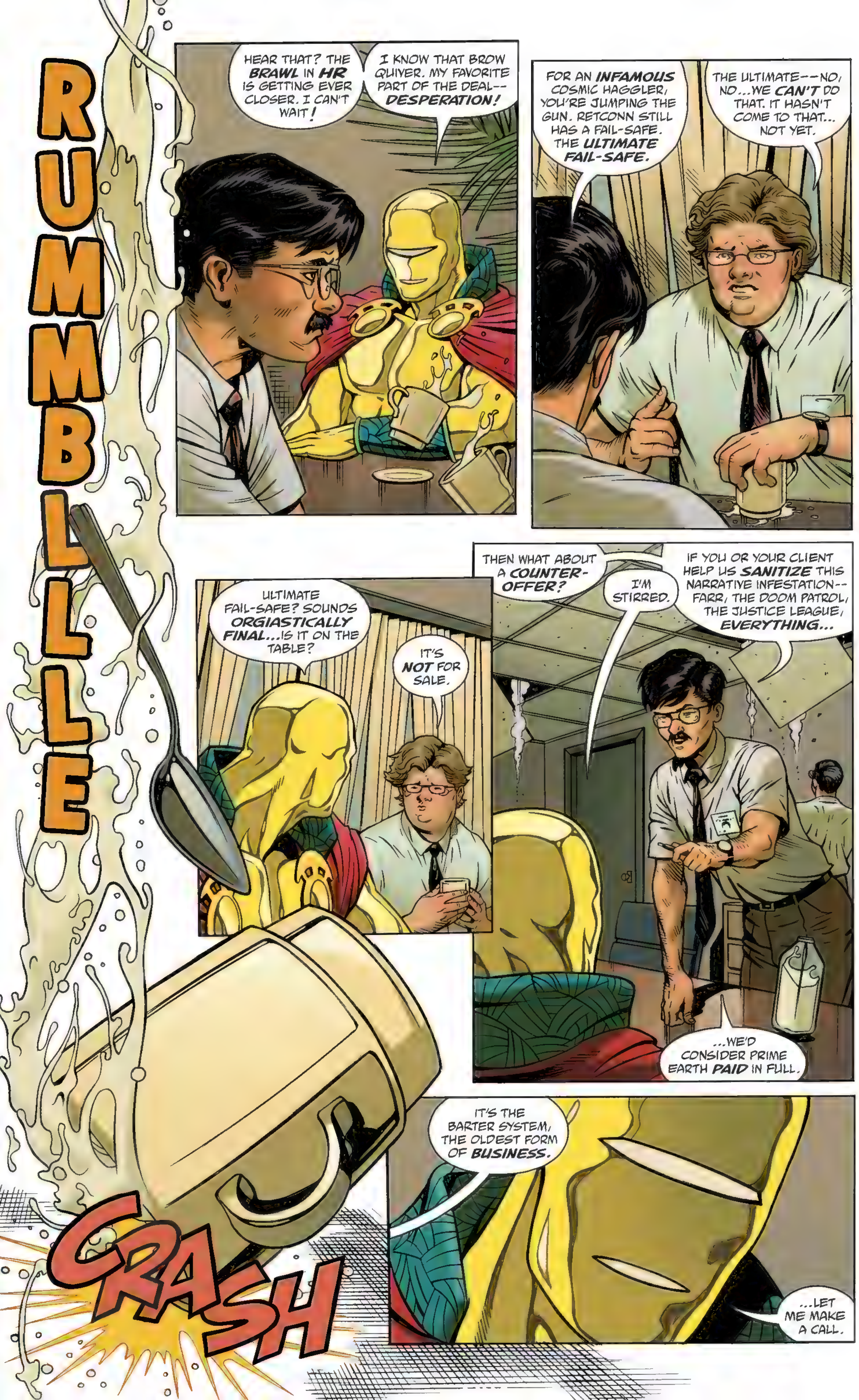
I'M NOT!
ENOUGH.
WONDER WIFE?! WHERE'S YOUR GOLDEN VACUUM?
THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING MANIPULATED, MILKMAN MAN.
BUT THERE IS STRENGTH IN SURVIVING.
LET GO!
NO. YOU DESERVED LOVE, NOT THE WHIMS OF A SELFISH CONGLOMERATE LIKE RETCONN. THEY USED YOU. LET US HELP YOU OVERCOME THAT.
HELP?
YOU THINK I NEED HELP FROM SOME GREEK CENTER-FOLD?!
I'VE GOT HELP.
RR RUMBLE
RETCONN BRAND.

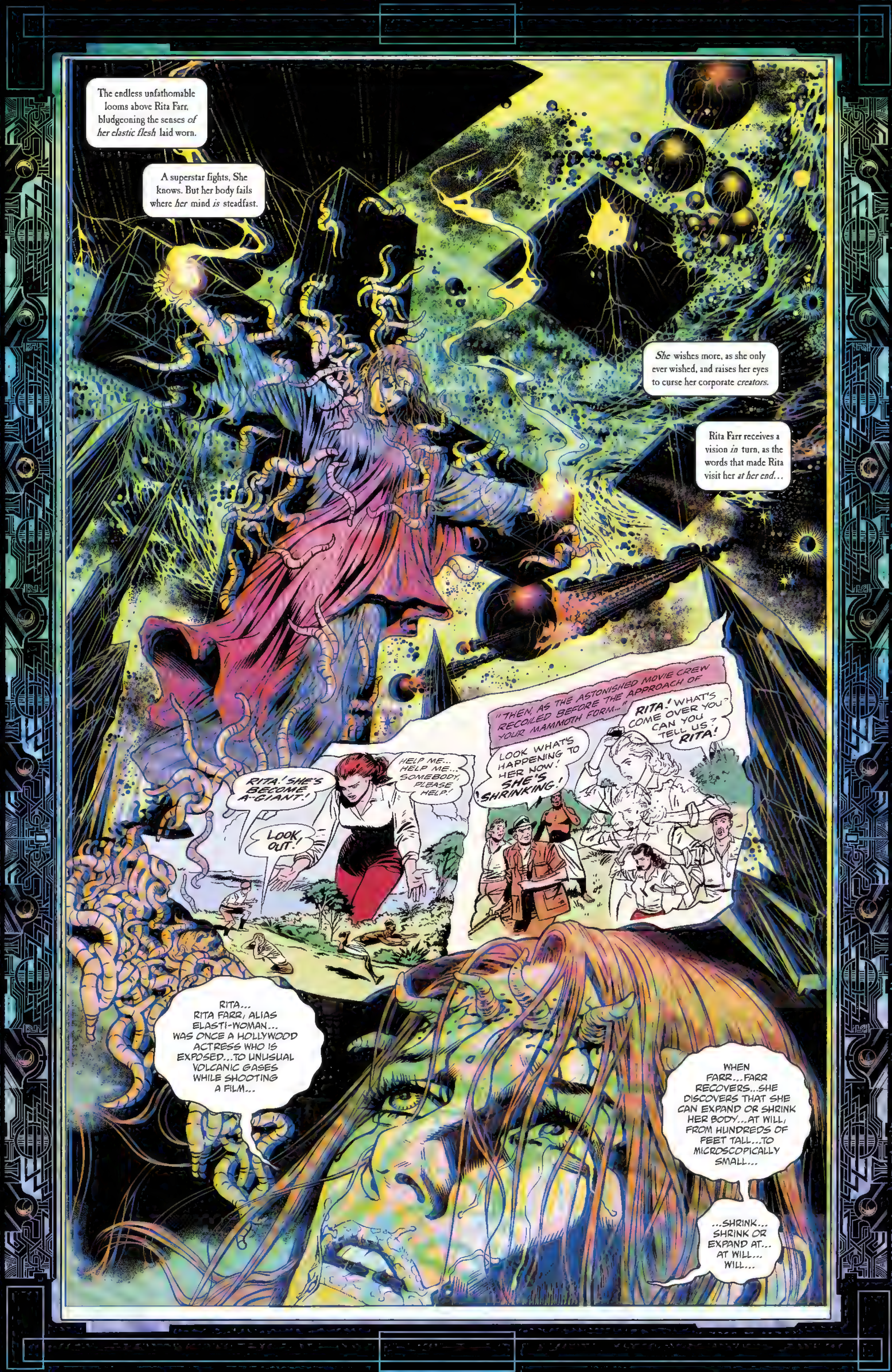

UPSTAIRS.
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT ANTS IN THE WALLS. TIME TO COME CLEAN, POLO SHIRTS...
THIS IS DISCOUNT DISCOURSE! HARDCORE HAGGLING!
WHY SHOULD MY CLIENT BUY PRIME EARTH WHEN IT'S CLEARLY RUNNING WILD? YOU TRYING TO SELL ME A LEMON?
NO...NOT AT ALL, LORD MANGA KHAN. WE'RE STILL IN CONTROL. THERE ARE FAIL-SAFES... PRIME EARTH IS AN HONEST PRODUCT.
THAT SO?
YOUR "HONEST PRODUCT" HAS WILD NARRATIVES POPPING UP LIKE WEEDS. YOUR PASSION PLAY IS BARELY HOLDING RITA FARR...
"...WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS GROWING IN THERE."
HELLO? ANYONE?
YOUR REALITY'S GOT BLACK MOLD, MY RANK REALITORS...

"YOU'RE WAY OUT OF YOUR DEPTH."
The high and low *of* Final Heaven gathered 'round Rita Farr *to nail* her down.
Each white hot hammer driving solar spikes through elastic *skin*...
She cannot remember *her* TV husband, cannot see the faces *of* her tormentors for the pain, cannot remember her true past...
THE LIVES OF DC SUPER STARS
But she knows the names of her jailers...
The title she longed to take, same as the cross she'll die on.
They raise *her* up to tear her down.
But Rita's not done yet. She's a superstar...
...whose tale could *yet* stretch *on*.


RETCONN OFFICES.
HELP, MILKMAN MAN? THESE ARE RETCONN SOLDIERS--MUTATED BOVINE SHOCK SOLDIERS! THEY'RE THE ONES THAT HURT YOU!
YOU'RE WHO'S HURTING ME NOW, LITTLE BIRD LADY.
RETCONN MADE ME SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T BE...BUT THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES THAT COULD ACCEPT ME NOW.
COW SOLDIERS? NONE OF THIS IS STRANGE TO YOU, SHADE?
MY EX HAD SONNETS FOR TOENAILS, FROST. THE ONLY STRANGE THING WHERE I'M FROM IS SAME.
YOUR MILK ATTACK IS OVER. THIS IS OVER.
THIS BOUT IS THROWN, CHUM!
NO! I WILL DELIVER A HOMOGENIZED EARTH!
IT'S ALL I HAVE!
ON YOUR RIGHT.
VMM VMM VMM
GOOD SAVE, ATOM.
LOOK AT THAT THING!
EVERY DAY SINCE I JOINED THE LEAGUE, UNREAL GETS REDEFINED!
HOW DO YOU DO THIS, CLIFF?
AIN'T LIKE I'M AN OLD HAND, RAY. S'POSSIBLE I'M NOT EVEN A YEAR OLD. JUST WRITTEN THIS WAY.
I AIN'T LIKE YOU. SOME EXTRADIMENSIONAL MUCK-MUCK SCRIBBLED ME UP OUTTA FAN FICTION.
COULD BE I'M NOT EVEN THE REAL CLIFF STEELE. JUST A MADE-UP HERO.
THOSE HEROES WERE ALL I HAD AS A KID, CLIFF...
DON'T THINK I'D BE HERE WITHOUT COMICS AND MOVIES. TRUST ME...
EVEN IF YOU ARE FAN FICTION, MADE-UP...
YOU'RE PRETTY REAL TO SOMEONE.

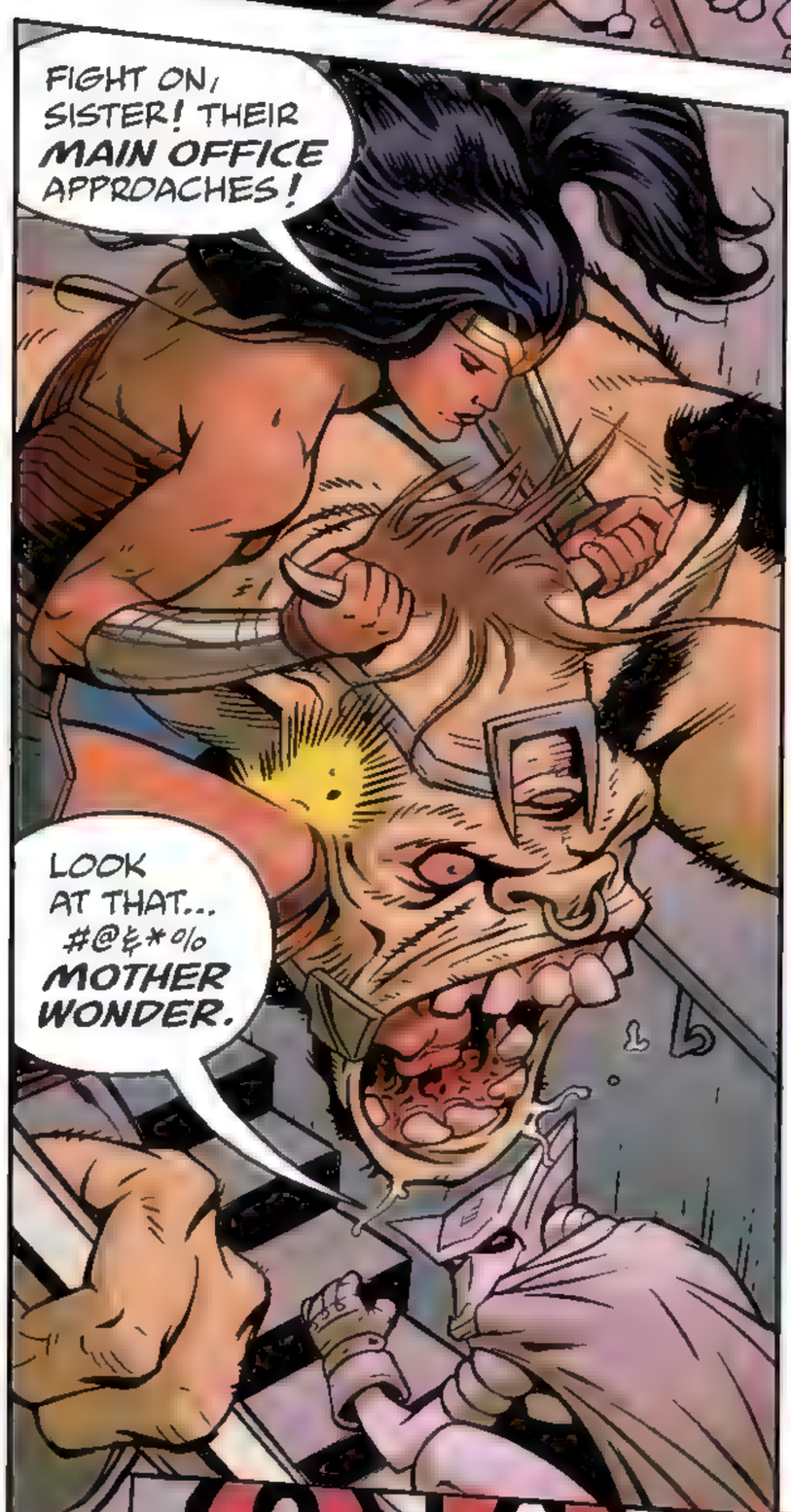
ENOUGH! GET OFF ME, YOU PRANCING POMPADOUR!
AND YOU... YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT...
BUT IF YOU THINK RETCONN AND I ARE GOING TO LET SOME REJECT FROM AN ALL-GIRLS SUMMER CAMP STOP OUR PLANS... YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING, SWIMSUIT.
I'M NOT ASKING YOUR OPINION.
THEN WHERE'S YOUR HUSBAND, MISSY? HE AND I'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
MILKMAN MAN!
SON...
YOU-- YOU...
JUST WAIT. IT'S ME. CASEY...YOUR MOTHER, OR DAD, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT. YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.
YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS. TERRY AND I... WE DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD HAVE YOU. YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN LOVED, NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE.
SHEESH, GUESS YOU NEVER MET MY FATHER. MARTY MAGGIEBELL ALWAYS SAID NOT TO DISAPPOINT HIM.
HE'S NOT YOUR FATHER, HE'S NOT REAL. RETCONN CREATED HIM AS PART OF THEIR STORY TO CONTROL YOU. TERRY AND I ARE YOUR PARENTS, IMPOSSIBLY. SHE'S GONE...
...BUT I'M RIGHT HERE. AND I'M NOT GIVING UP ON YOU.


RUMMBLLE
HEAR THAT? THE BRAWL IN HR IS GETTING EVER CLOSER. I CAN'T WAIT!
I KNOW THAT BROW QUIVER. MY FAVORITE PART OF THE DEAL--DESPERATION!
FOR AN INFAMOUS COSMIC HAGGLER, YOU'RE JUMPING THE GUN. RETCONN STILL HAS A FAIL-SAFE. THE ULTIMATE FAIL-SAFE.
THE ULTIMATE--NO, NO...WE CAN'T DO THAT. IT HASN'T COME TO THAT... NOT YET.
ULTIMATE FAIL-SAFE? SOUNDS ORGIASTICALLY FINAL...IS IT ON THE TABLE?
IT'S NOT FOR SALE.
THEN WHAT ABOUT A COUNTER-OFFER?
I'M STIRRED.
IF YOU OR YOUR CLIENT HELP US SANITIZE THIS NARRATIVE INFESTATION--FARR, THE DOOM PATROL, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, EVERYTHING...
...WE'D CONSIDER PRIME EARTH PAID IN FULL.
CRASH
IT'S THE BARTER SYSTEM, THE OLDEST FORM OF BUSINESS.
...LET ME MAKE A CALL.

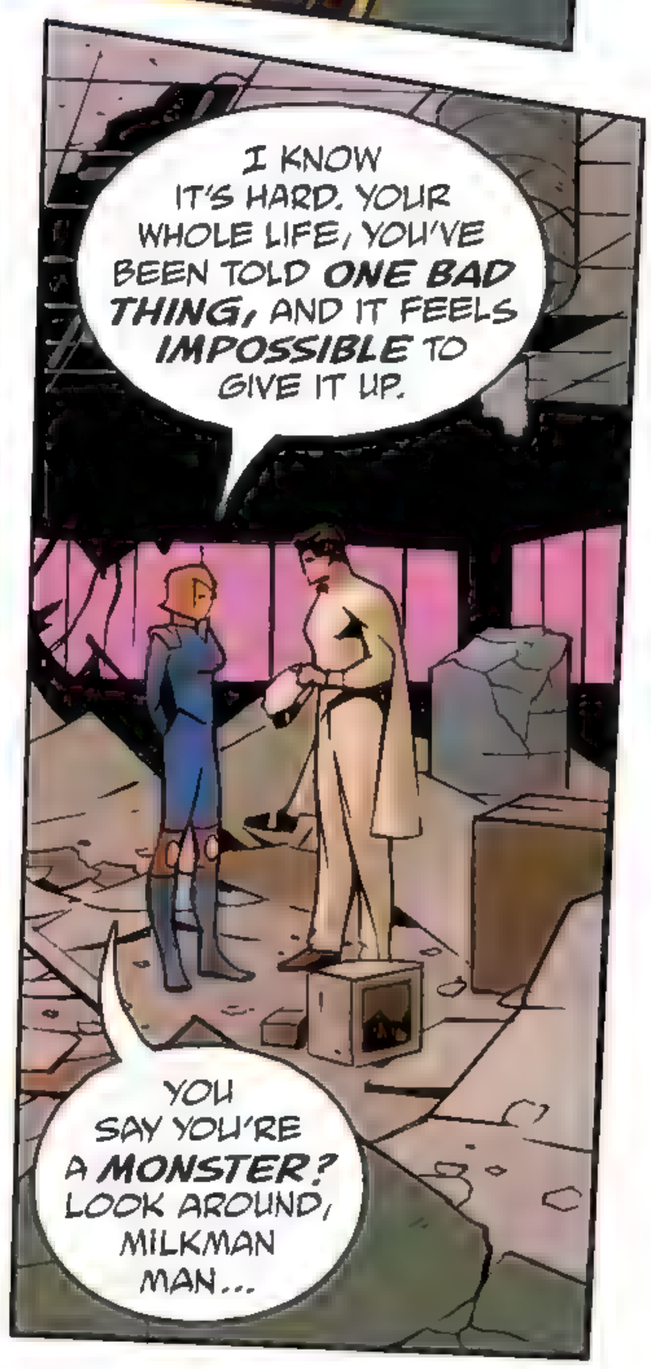

The endless unfathomable looms above Rita Farr, bludgeoning the senses *of her elastic flesh* laid worn.
A superstar fights. She knows. But her body fails where *her* mind *is* steadfast.
She wishes more, as she only ever wished, and raises her eyes to curse her corporate *creators.*
Rita Farr receives a vision *in* turn, as the words that made Rita visit her *at her end…*
"THEN, AS THE ASTONISHED MOVIE CREW RECOILED BEFORE THE APPROACH OF YOUR MAMMOTH FORM…"
RITA! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? CAN YOU TELL US? RITA!
LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER NOW! SHE'S SHRINKING!
RITA! SHE'S BECOME A-GIANT!
LOOK OUT!
HELP ME.. HELP ME... SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP!
RITA... RITA FARR, ALIAS ELASTI-WOMAN... WAS ONCE A HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS WHO IS EXPOSED...TO UNUSUAL VOLCANIC GASES WHILE SHOOTING A FILM...
WHEN FARR...FARR RECOVERS...SHE DISCOVERS THAT SHE CAN EXPAND OR SHRINK HER BODY...AT WILL, FROM HUNDREDS OF FEET TALL...TO MICROSCOPICALLY SMALL...
...SHRINK... SHRINK OR EXPAND AT... AT WILL... WILL...

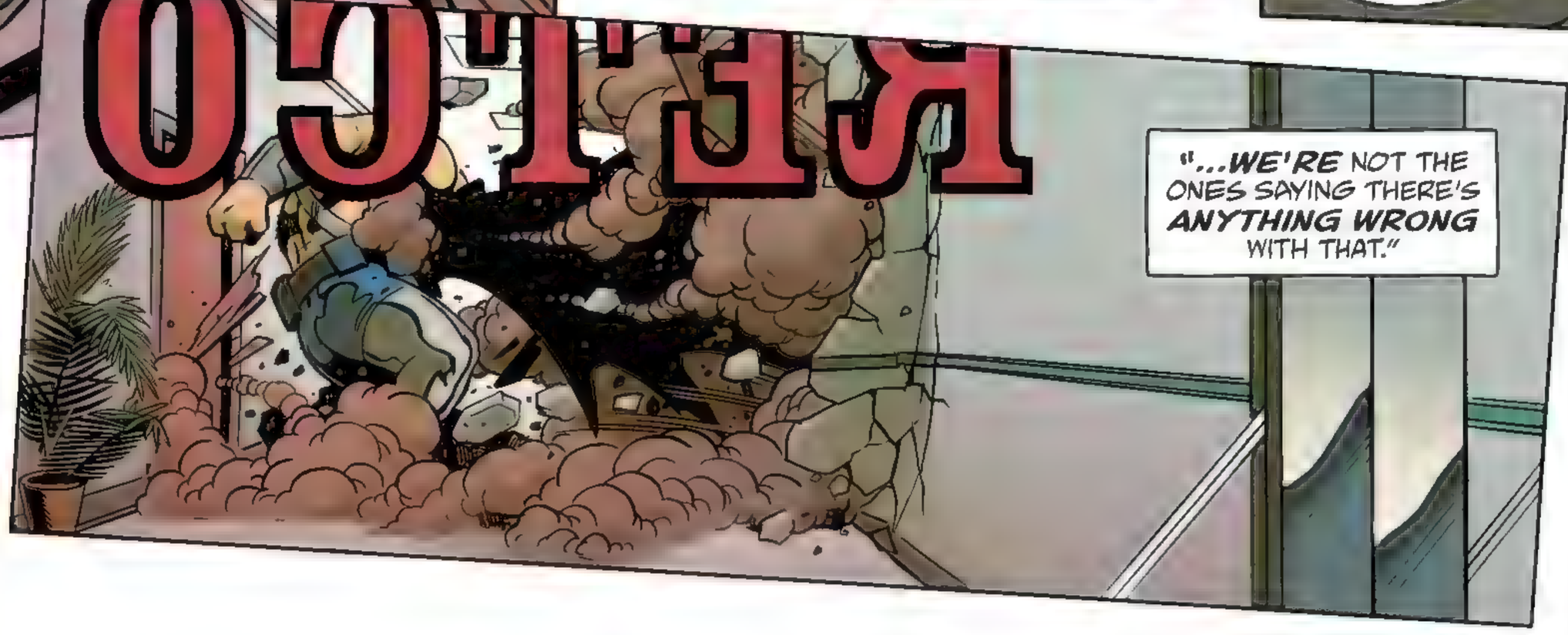
RETCONN OFFICES.
ZZRAP
NICE A' YA TA SHOW UP, YA CRACKLIN' FRAGBUCKET!
WONDER WHAT LIFE YER HOST'S LIVIN' WHILE YER OUT HERE MAKIN' THE MAIN MAN LOOK USEFUL...

MILKMAN MAN ALMOST KILLED YOU, CAVE. CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STANDING!
THIS ARMOR YOU COOKED UP'S DOING HALF THE WORK, RAY. FEELS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A CARTOON!
THAT IS WHERE I SAW IT.


FIGHT ON, SISTER! THEIR MAIN OFFICE APPROACHES!
LOOK AT THAT... #@&*% MOTHER WONDER.

...BUT THEY SAY GIRLS CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
MAGGIEBELL'S THE ONE WHO LIED, MILKMAN MAN.


I KNOW IT'S HARD. YOUR WHOLE LIFE, YOU'VE BEEN TOLD ONE BAD THING, AND IT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE IT UP.
YOU SAY YOU'RE A MONSTER? LOOK AROUND, MILKMAN MAN...


"...WE'RE NOT THE ONES SAYING THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT."

RRRRUMMMBLL
...SIR, THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER.
QUIET, JENKINS! KHAN IS ON A CALL!
ARE WE ON, K.R.?

YOU KNOW THE SKIER, MY POOR, PRODIGAL HERALD. COULD NEVER LAND PRIME EARTH FOR ME, KHAN.
TELL ME YOU'VE DONE BETTER.
I'M HAGGLING AT MY BEST...BUT WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS. RETCONN PROMISED PRIME EARTH WOULD BE HOMOGENIZED...

YES...THE WAITING CANVAS FOR MR. NEBULA'S GREATEST WORK.
BUT AS MUCH AS I HATE TO SAY IT, THIS TURKEY MIGHT BE SOILED BEYOND REPAIR.

THEY'VE GOT A WILD NARRATIVE IN THE FLOORBOARDS, AND THEY'RE OFFERING PRIME EARTH FOR FREE IF WE CLEAN IT UP.
RETCO
Hmm. WE COULD, YES...BUT I DON'T LOVE IT. I'M THE UNIVERSAL DECORATOR, NOT SOME FABULOUS FUMIGATOR.

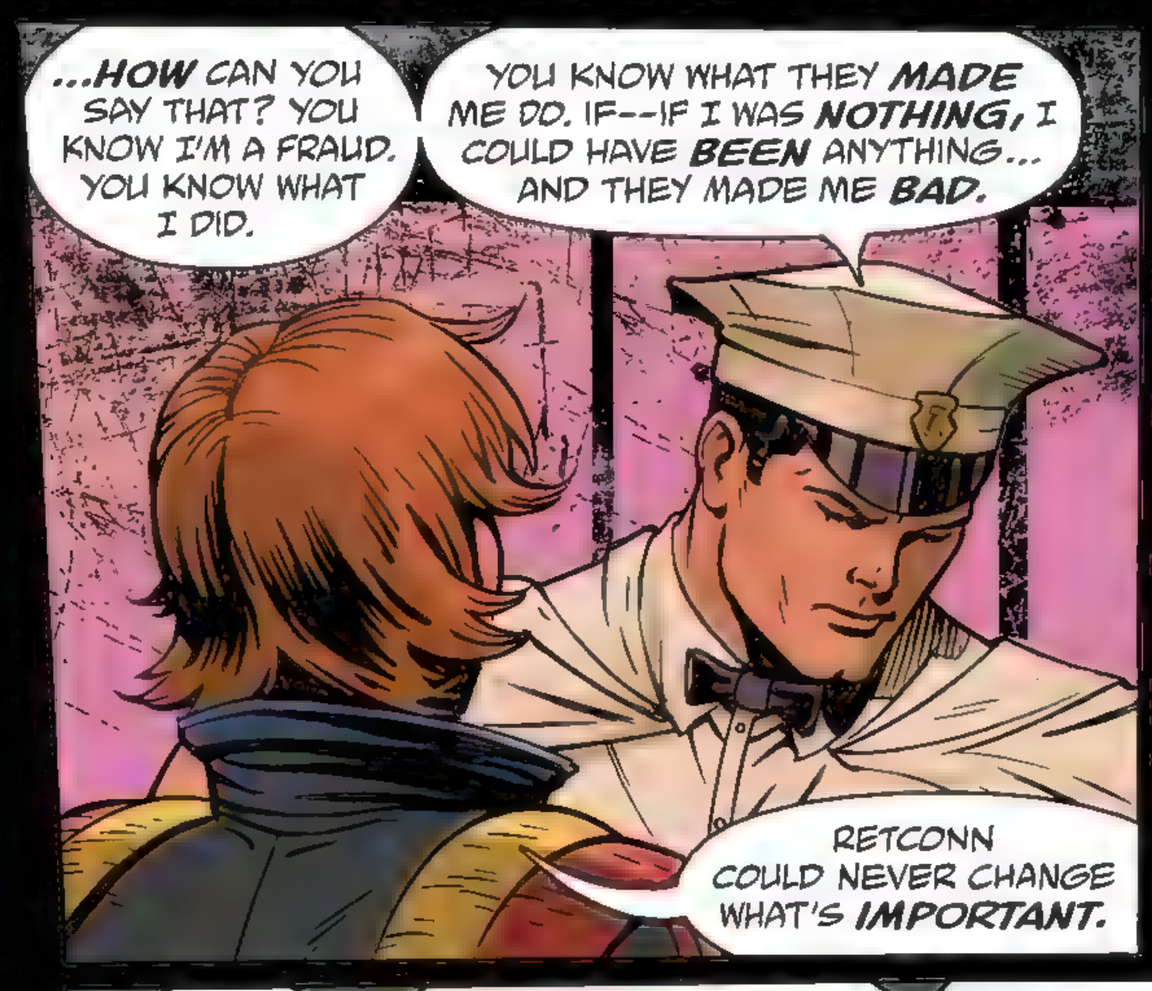
WAIT, LORD MANGA KHAN! YOUR CLIENT--
HAS DECIDED! SORRY, CHAMP! NEGOTIATIONS ARE OVER--
NO SALE!
VIIIIM
AND YOU'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN THAT!
RRUMMMMMBLE

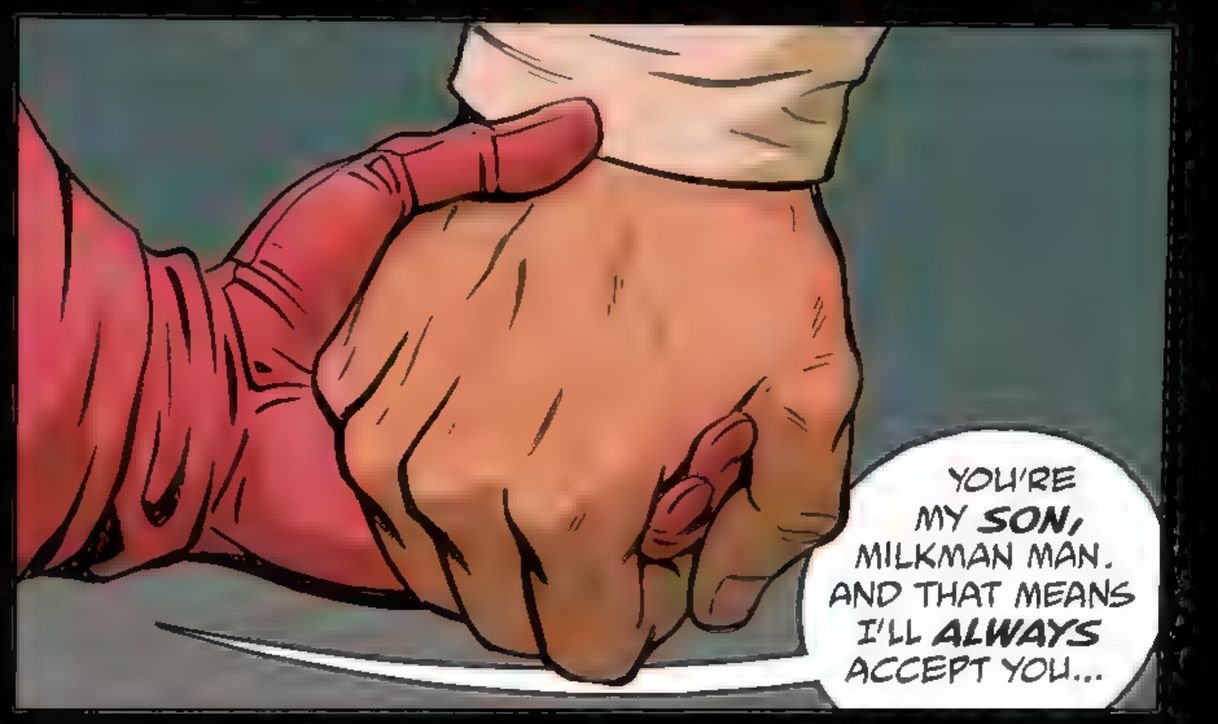
KAGHOOOM
HOLA, BEAST!
FOR THE LOVE OF--THEY'RE COMING FROM ALL SIDES!
FOLLOW THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN!
DAMN RIGHT! WE'RE TRAPPED, YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO!
NOW THERE'S NO CHOICE ...DAMNIT. DAMN IT... WE HAVE TO DO IT.

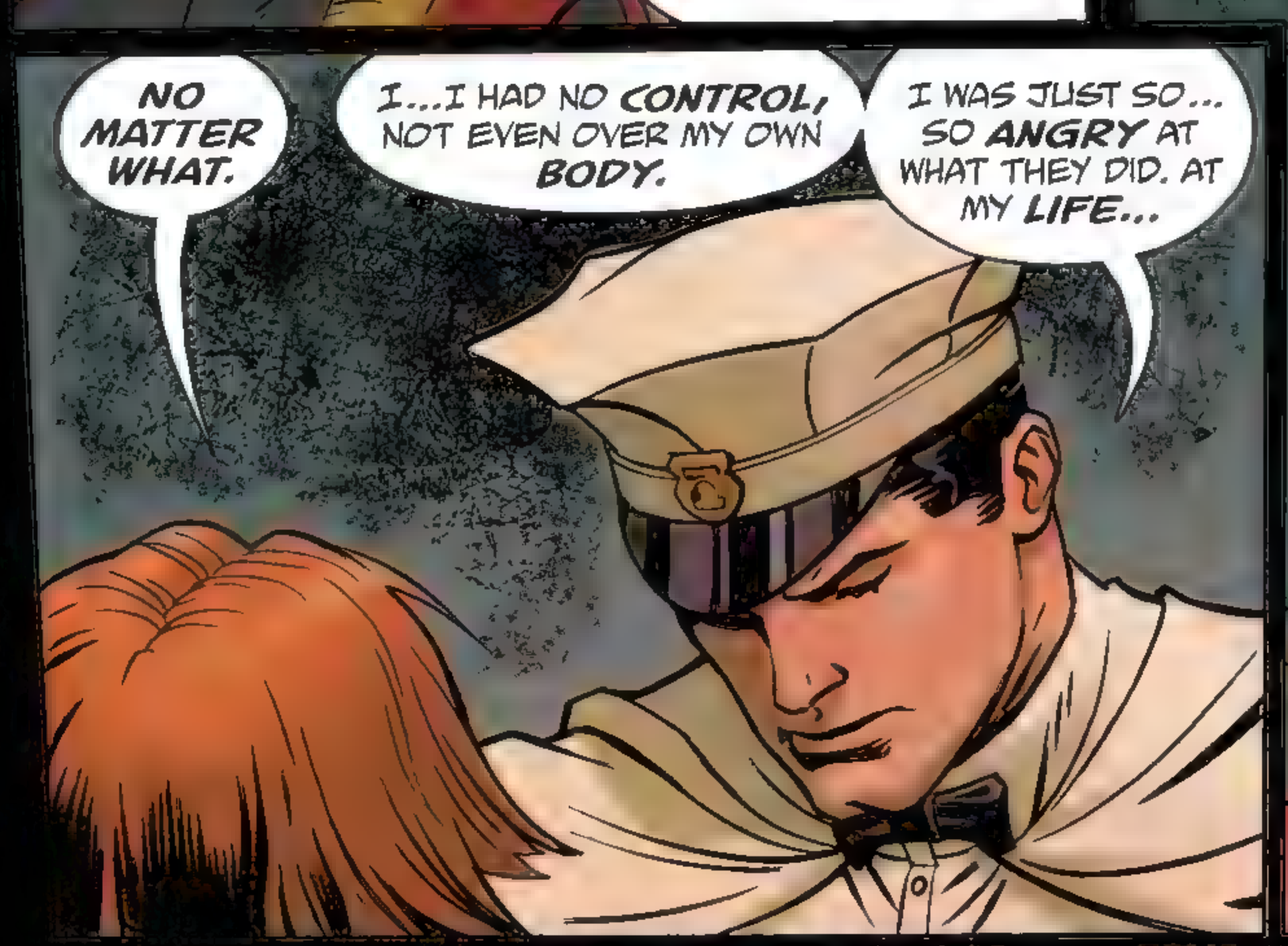
BELOW.
...THE FIGHT'S TUSSLED ON WITHOUT US.
IS THAT BAD?
I CAME BACK HERE, AFTER...AFTER HAPPY HARBOR, AFTER WHAT YOU SHOWED ME. THEY ADMITTED I WAS A FAKE, SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER...

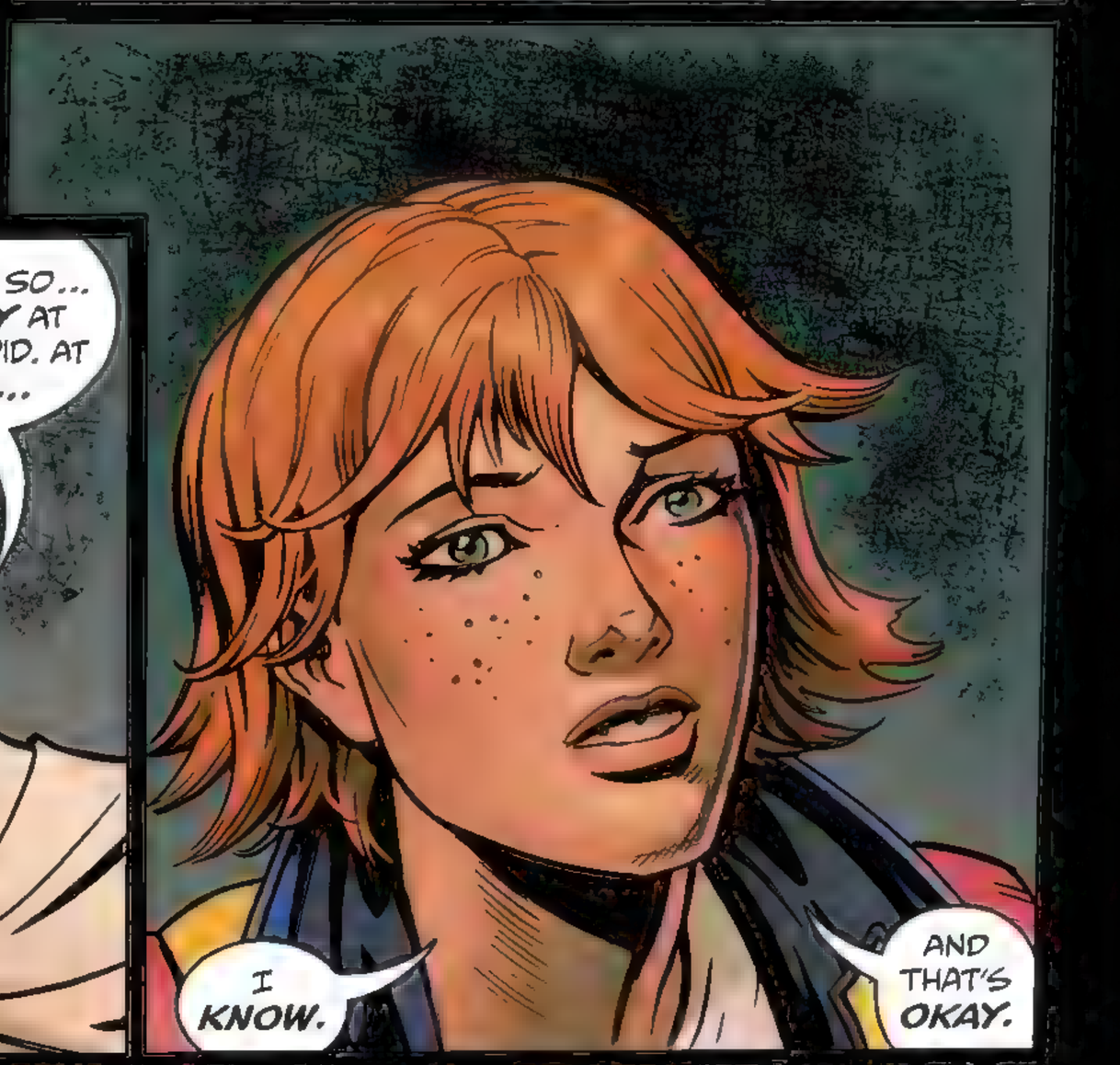
...I WAS THEIR FAKE. AND IT WAS MY JOB TO DEFEND THE RETCONN BRAND.
RETCONN'S NOT HERE. I AM. AND I SAY THE ONLY THING YOU SHOULD DEFEND...

...IS YOURSELF.


...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU KNOW I'M A FRAUD. YOU KNOW WHAT I DID.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY MADE ME DO. IF--IF I WAS NOTHING, I COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING... AND THEY MADE ME BAD.
RETCONN COULD NEVER CHANGE WHAT'S IMPORTANT.


YOU'RE MY SON, MILKMAN MAN. AND THAT MEANS I'LL ALWAYS ACCEPT YOU...


NO MATTER WHAT.
I...I HAD NO CONTROL, NOT EVEN OVER MY OWN BODY.
I WAS JUST SO... SO ANGRY AT WHAT THEY DID. AT MY LIFE...


I KNOW.
AND THAT'S OKAY.

ABOVE. MAIN OFFICES.

ALL RIGHT, YOU PRESSED-SHIRT ***PUNKS.*** YOUR DAIRY SHOW'S OVER!

TOUGH TALK FROM AN OUT-OF-DATE ***COPY*** OF A ***COPY!*** HOW'S ROBERT CRANE THESE DAYS, YOU FAN-FICTION ***FREAK?***

WE'RE NOT DONE, NOT WHILE I HAVE THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN... ***THE ULTIMATE FAIL-SAFE!***

THIS IS THE ***FINAL REFRESH BUTTON*** ON REALITY! STAY BACK, STORIES! OR I'LL WIPE PRIME EARTH LIKE A MAGNET TO A HARD DRIVE.

HOLD ON, MAN! THEY'RE NOT EVEN ***MOVING!*** IT'S A ***DETERRENT,*** NOT A--

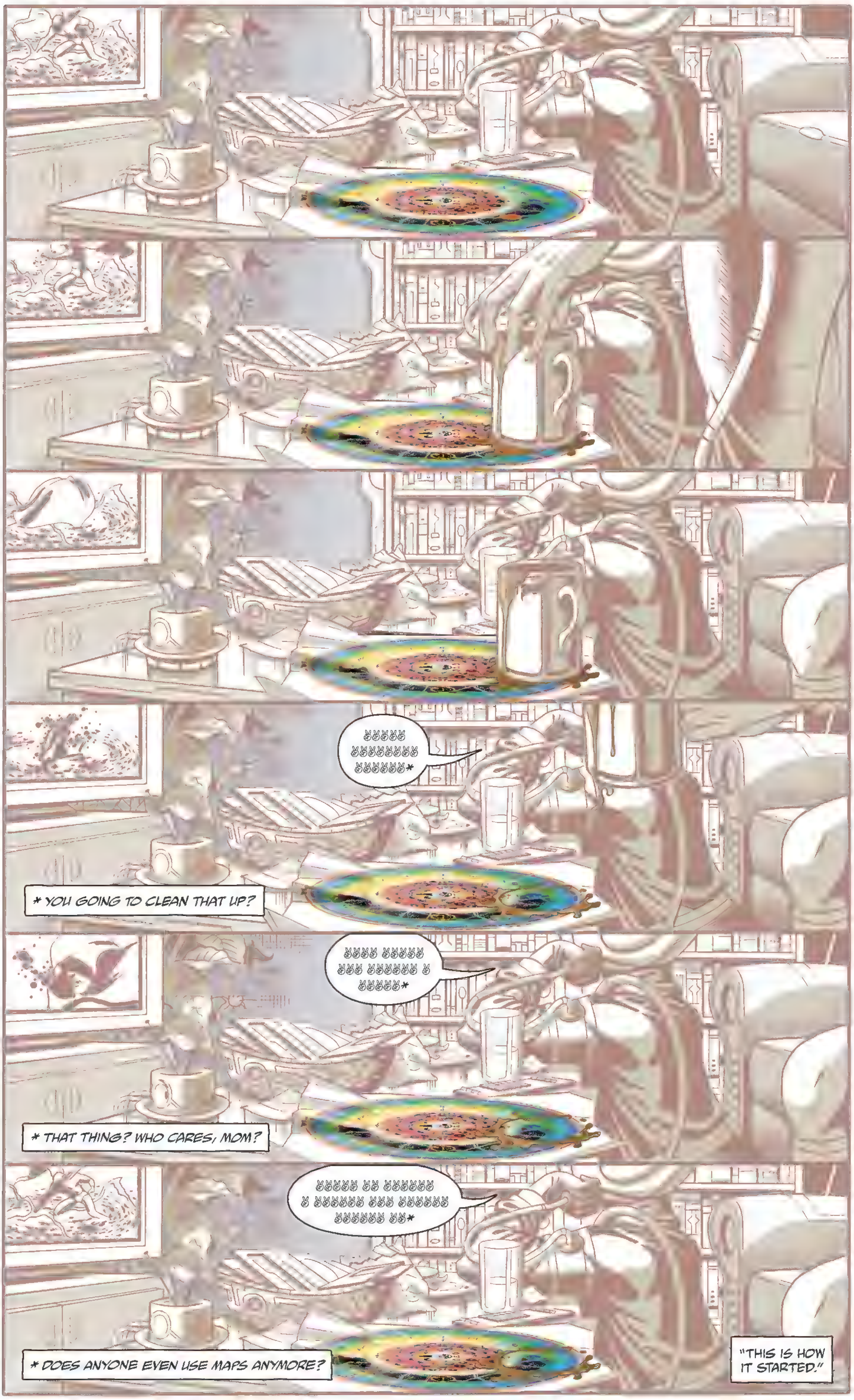
OH, ***MAN UP,*** JOHNSON. IF WE CAN'T SELL PRIME EARTH...

NO ONE WILL.

CLICK

High in Final Heaven, creation begins to unsew *itself*.
The off-switch has been struck.
The superstar's suffering will soon end with everything *else*, and she with it.
There isn't much *time*, but that's still just enough…
FARR… SHE DISCOVERS THAT SHE CAN EXPAND OR SHRINK HER BODY…AT WILL…SHRINK OR EXPAND… AT WILL…
…for a miracle.
In the words that made her, cast delirious from her lips…
…SHRINK OR…EXPAND… AT WILL… WILL…
…we find the revelation of Rita Farr.
…AT WILL…MY GOD.
She gathers her consciousness.

And she stretches.
Not a hoax! Not a dream! But the real stuff!
The DP's Yo-Yo Girl expands herself *once* more!
I'M...I'M IN EVERYTHING.
I SEE IT.


* YOU GOING TO CLEAN THAT UP?
* THAT THING? WHO CARES, MOM?
* DOES ANYONE EVEN USE MAPS ANYMORE?
"THIS IS HOW IT STARTED."

RETCONN OFFICES.
DOWNSTAIRS.
WHAT IS THAT? EVERYTHING'S BURNING IN FROM THE EDGES!
...RETCONN'S CORPORATE LOSS PLAN. LIQUIDATE YOUR ASSETS.

THEY COULDN'T TURN PEOPLE THE SAME SO THEY'RE ENDING THE WORLD?
NO. NOTHING THAT SMALL...
THEY'RE ENDING EVERY-THING.
WE--WE CAN STOP IT SOMEHOW. WE CAN--

NO. THIS IS IT.
DON'T LIE, YOU KNOW IT IS...
I NEVER EVEN SAW SOMEONE NAKED...
IT'S LIKE REALITY BLEACH. EVERYTHING'S GOING BLANK PAGE...I'M SCARED OF IT, SCARED OF THE WHITE...OF NOT EXISTING...

YOU--YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. YOU STARTED OUT AS NOTHING. AND THAT WASN'T SCARY, BECAUSE YOU COULD'VE BEEN ANYTHING...
AND HEY... NO ONE EXISTS FOREVER. A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER SOMEONE DIES, EVERYONE THEY EVER KNEW WILL BE GONE, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER THEM. IT'S NATURAL.

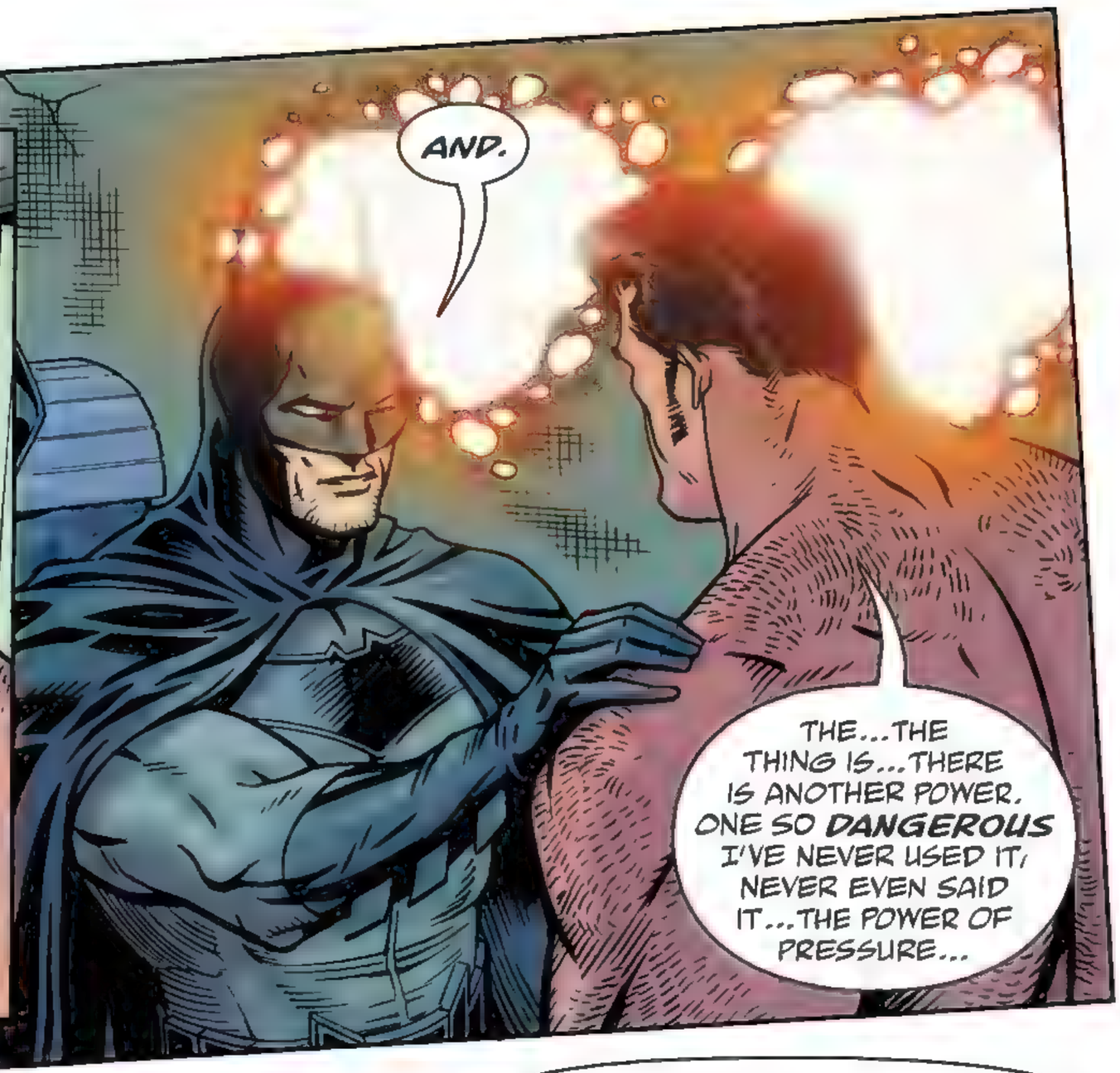
...AND IT SURE AS HELL DOESN'T MEAN THEY DON'T MATTER.
COME HERE.
...OKAY, MOM.

THIS WHOLE PLACE IS COMING DOWN...IT'S JUST FINAL HEAVEN OUT THERE. WE COULD BE FALLING FOREVER!
MAIN OFFICES.
ABOVE.
NEVER THOUGHT MY SECOND DEATH WOULD BE SO PLUSH AND MUNDANE.
HOW CAN YOU JOKE, SHADE?!
WHO'S JOKING, FROST?
YOU-- YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T! PRIME EARTH WAS WAY PAST ITS SELL-BY DATE. YOU KNOW IT! I KNOW IT!
WE TRIED TO SALT ROTTEN MEAT...BUT WE COULDN'T HIDE THE TASTE!
NOW THE WHOLE SHOP'S FOULED. OUR RETIREMENT PLAN IS BOTCHED! TIME TO BURN IT DOWN!
CARSON'S WRONG, IT'S NOT JUST FINAL HEAVEN... THAT WHITE OPENING UP BETWEEN ATOMS IS ENDLESS. ONE OF MY VOICES, ONE OF THE PEOPLE I AM, VIXEN... LADY PURPLE CAN SEE THE FUTURE, AND SHE SAYS THERE'S NOTHING THERE...
TELL THAT LADY I'VE BEEN HERE HUNDREDS OF TIMES, JANE. THERE IS A WAY OUT, WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT.
OUT? THERE NEEDS TO BE SOMEWHERE TO GO! WHAT GOOD'S A PLAN WHEN EVERYTHING'S BURNING AWAY?
RETCONN SET A BONFIRE, JANE? TALK TO YOUR TEAM. TALK TO YOUR HEAD. FIND ME SOME WATER.

COME ON, FROST! GET AS MANY AS YOU CAN. WE CAN SHRINK TO THE MICROVERSE, WE CAN MAYBE BE SAFE--
RETCONN OWNS THE MICROVERSE, TOO, RYAN... JUST HOLD MY HAND.
ENJOY GOIN' DOWN WITH THE SHIP, BASTICHES?
IT'S POPPING LIKE A BALLOON OVER A CANDLE. THIS...THIS IS BEYOND DARKSEID, BEYOND BARBATOS...IT'S NOT INSIDIOUS. IT'S RIDICULOUS...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. ABSURD...
...BUT WE'VE GOT SOMEONE FOR THAT.
RETCONN'S FAILSAFE COMES FROM A REALM OUR SENSES CAN'T COMPREHEND. A DARK, DIVINE DOOMSDAY MYSTERY.
MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE FOUGHT MYSTERIES WITH TRUTH. BUT HERE, NOW...WE FIGHT A MYSTERY WITH MYSTERY...
MUSCLE MYSTERY.

WE NEED FLEX MENTALLO.
I'M...FLATTERED, BATMAN. I REALLY AM. I'M HONORED...
...BUT I'M JUST A SUPERHERO WITH A PENCHANT FOR EGGS, TOO IN LOVE WITH THE RIDICULOUS.

I FLEX MY TRAP AND A BOMB BECOMES A KNISH. PULSE MY LAT AND THE PENTAGON BECOMES A CIRCLE...BUT SAVING REALITY ITSELF?
I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE COULD EVER FLEX THAT HARD...AND...


AND.
THE...THE THING IS...THERE IS ANOTHER POWER. ONE SO DANGEROUS I'VE NEVER USED IT, NEVER EVEN SAID IT...THE POWER OF PRESSURE...

INFLATION INTENSITY.

THE ELECTROMAGNETISM OF ENDORPHINS. THEY SAY IT'S A POWER BEYOND MUSCLE MYSTERY. BUT EVEN IF I INFLATED...IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE EVERYTHING, NOT ALONE.

SO DON'T. WE JUST NEED TO FLEX, OR INFLATE, HARD ENOUGH TO HIT THE RESTART BUTTON.
...TO DEFIBRILLATE.
EXACTLY, JANE. REALITY WILL DO THE REST. IF THE RED TAUGHT ME ANYTHING, IT'S THAT LIFE IS MADE TO HEAL.

MY TANTU TOTEM CONNECTS LIVING THINGS--IT CAN CONNECT US. JANE'S SCARLET HARLOT CAN FOCUS THE PYSCHO-SEXUAL ENERGY OF INFLATION...
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, FLEX. WE CAN DO THIS. AND WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER.

WAIT...IF RETCONN WIPES THE PAGE CLEAN...CLIFF, YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT THE ORIGINAL. YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM. WHAT--WHAT IF RETCONN MADE YOU?
WHAT IF THEY PULLED YOU FROM FAN FICTION?
...NOT SURE ANYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOME WORN-OUT COPY.
KICK-STARTING REALITY COULD UNDO RETCONN'S CHANGES. IF YOU'RE ONE OF THEM...YOU COULD BE ERASED!
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU, OR IF WE'LL EVEN REMEMBER YOU!
...
...THANKS, KIDDO. THAT'S REAL NICE.
...BUT THERE AIN'T MUCH TIME FOR NICE.
IF WE DON'T JOLT FRIGGIN' REALITY, NO ONE'LL HAVE EXISTED...
SO RING UP YER SCARLET HARLOT, JANE. VIXEN? JUICE UP YER DOOHICKY SO WE CAN HOOK UP TO OL' MENTALLO'S DOME AND TAP THAT SECRET KNOWLEDGE.
REALITY AIN'T GONNA REGROW ON ITS OWN. IF WE'RE GONNA KICK IT IN THE ASS...

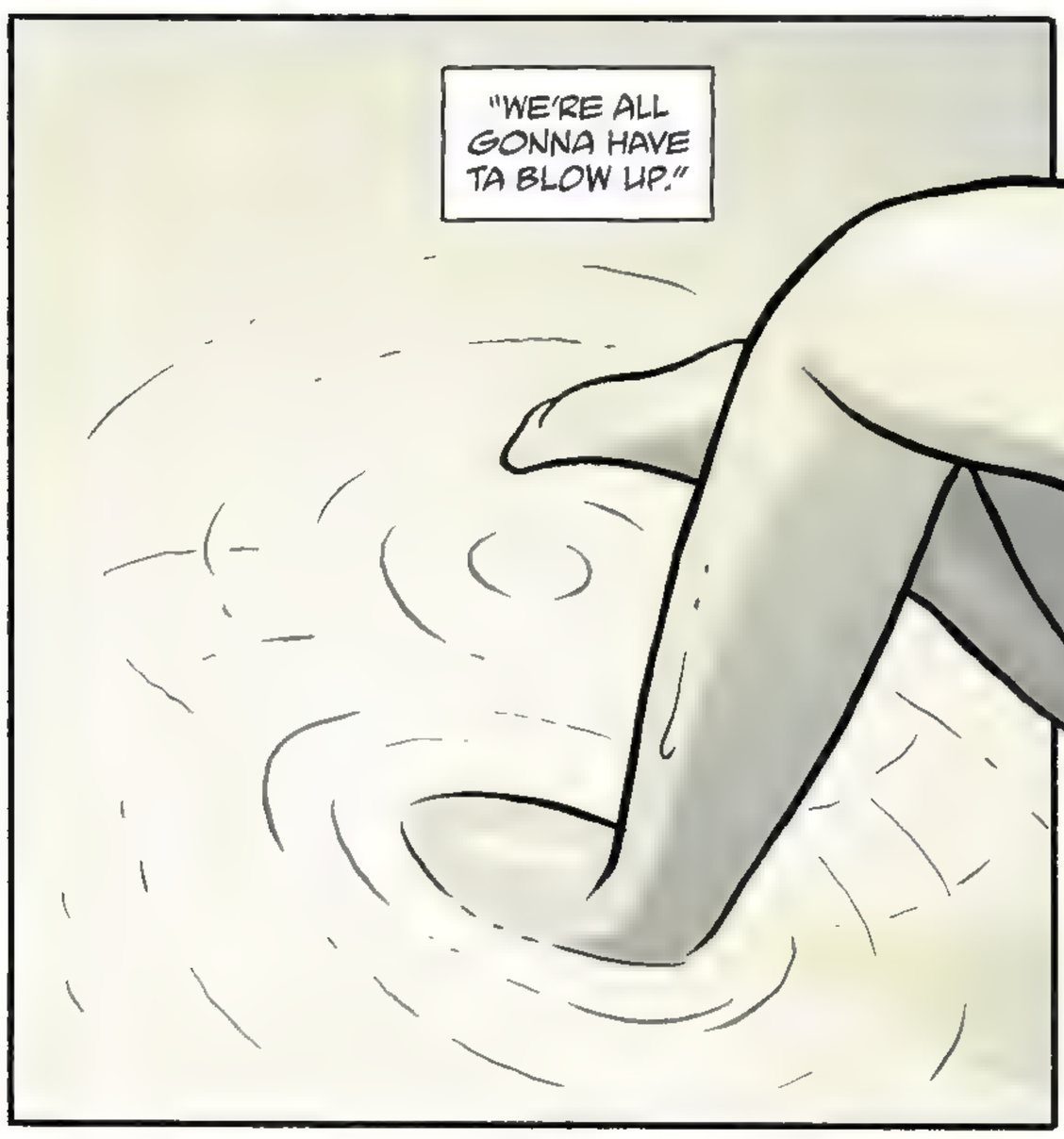
"...WE'RE ALL GONNA HAVE TA BLOW UP.
"AND AS FOR CARBON-COPY CLIFF STEELE, FAN FICTION ROBOTMAN, IF THIS IS HOW HE GOES OUT?
"THEN HE'S HAPPY TO DO IT WITH YA."

Creation.

I CAN SEE IT ALL.
"WE'RE ALL GONNA HAVE TA BLOW UP."

I CAN SEE IT ALL.
"WE'RE ALL GONNA HAVE TA BLOW UP."

I CAN SEE IT ALL.
I'M IN EVERY-THING.


"WE'RE ALL GONNA HAVE TA BLOW UP."

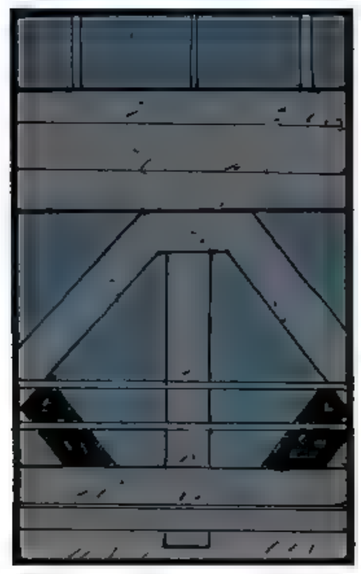
I'M IN EVERY-THING.
Rebooting.

DUMPED OFF IN GOTHAM CITY...
...BUT NOT THE ONE I KNOW.
THIS CITY ALWAYS HAS A PRESENCE--A SHADOW--AND I DON'T FEEL IT ANYMORE.
GOTHAM HAS A WEIGHT THAT CAN CRUSH YOU...AND IT JUST GOT HEAVIER.

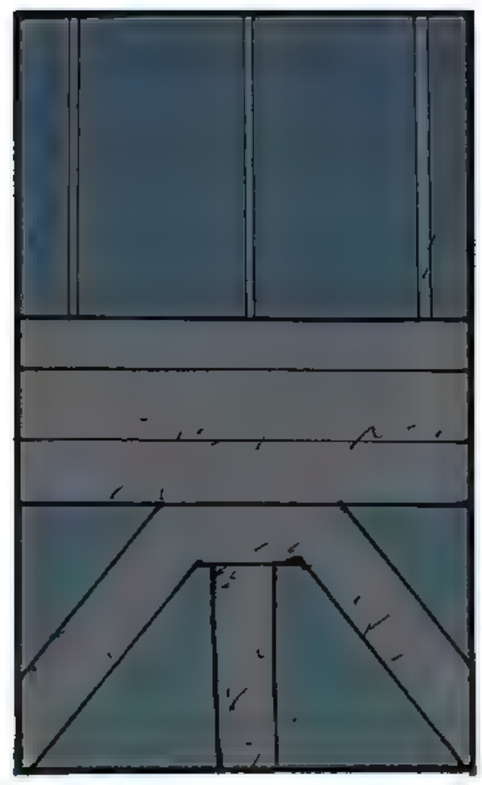
THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE UNDER-GROUND...
...BUT THE REACHES OF SPACE CALL OUT MY NAME, THE NAME OF MY DAUGHTER, OF MY FRIEND, AND OF THE CYBERNETIC EYE THAT HELD SO MUCH MYSTERY FOR SO MUCH TIME.
WE'RE READY.

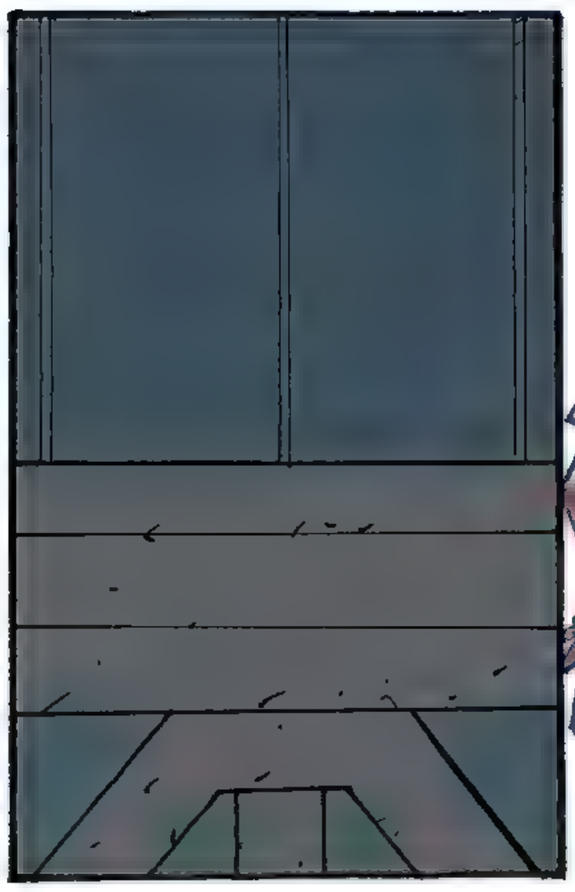
WHERE AM I NOW?
WHAT HAVE I BECOME?
I AM NEWBORN, BUT NO CHILD. I AM WEARY, BUT NOT ANCIENT.
FAMILIAR BUT SO DISTANT--LIKE THE LIGHT FROM A STAR IN A FARAWAY HOME.
EVERYONE IS GONE. EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

WAIT!



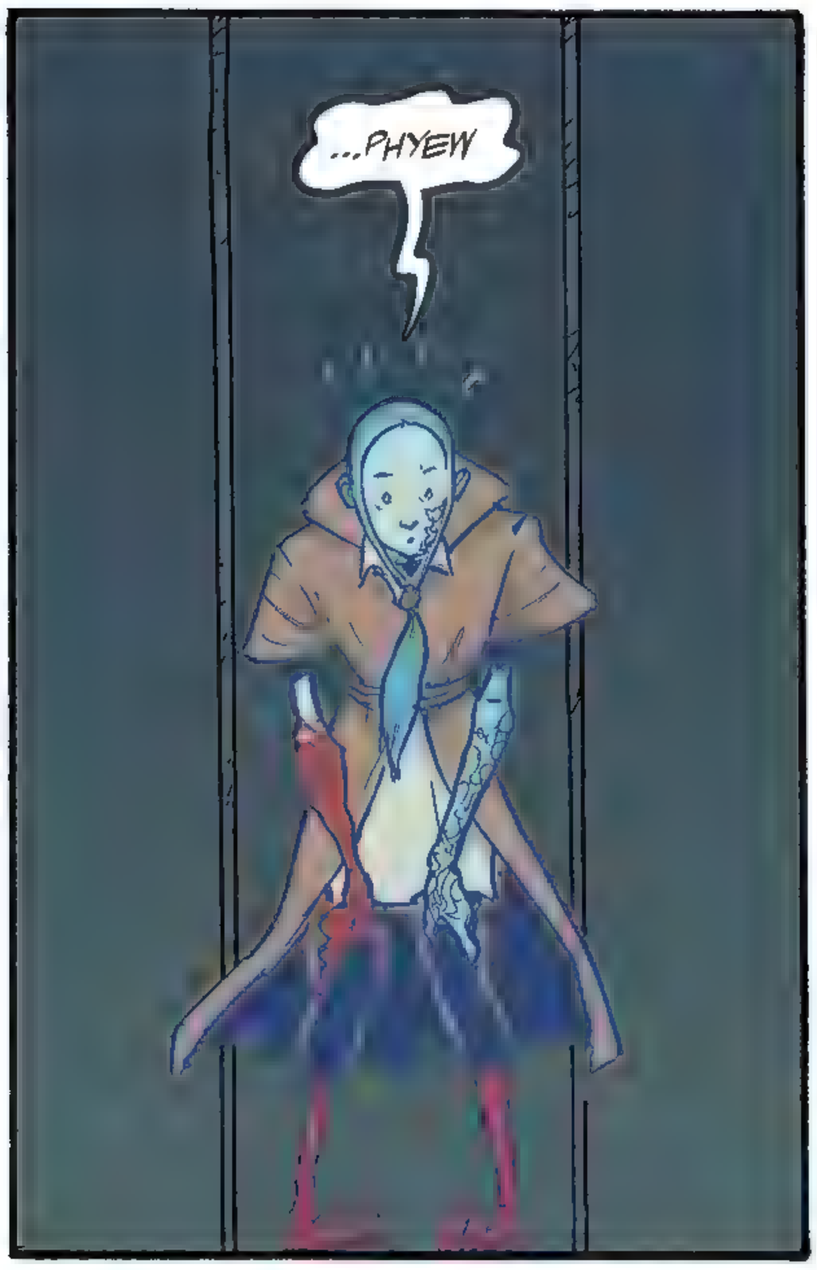
WAIT! HOLD ON!





DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIT...

HNGAH!

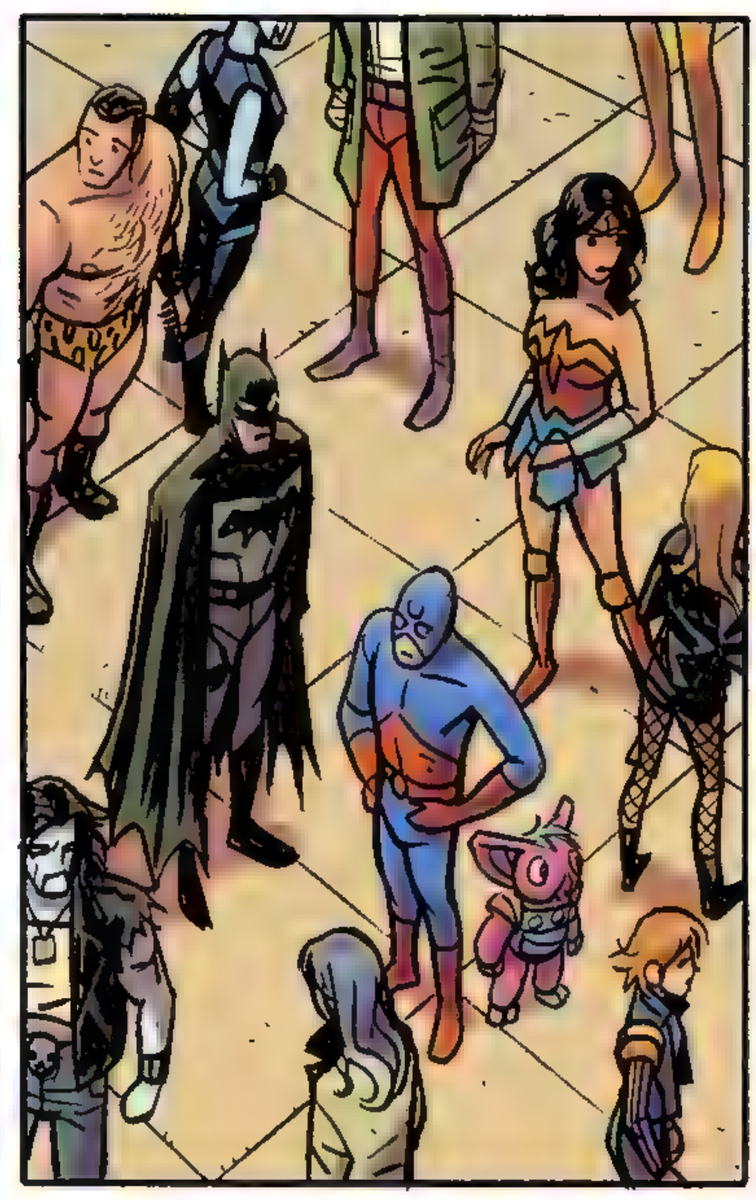

...PHYEW

ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT.

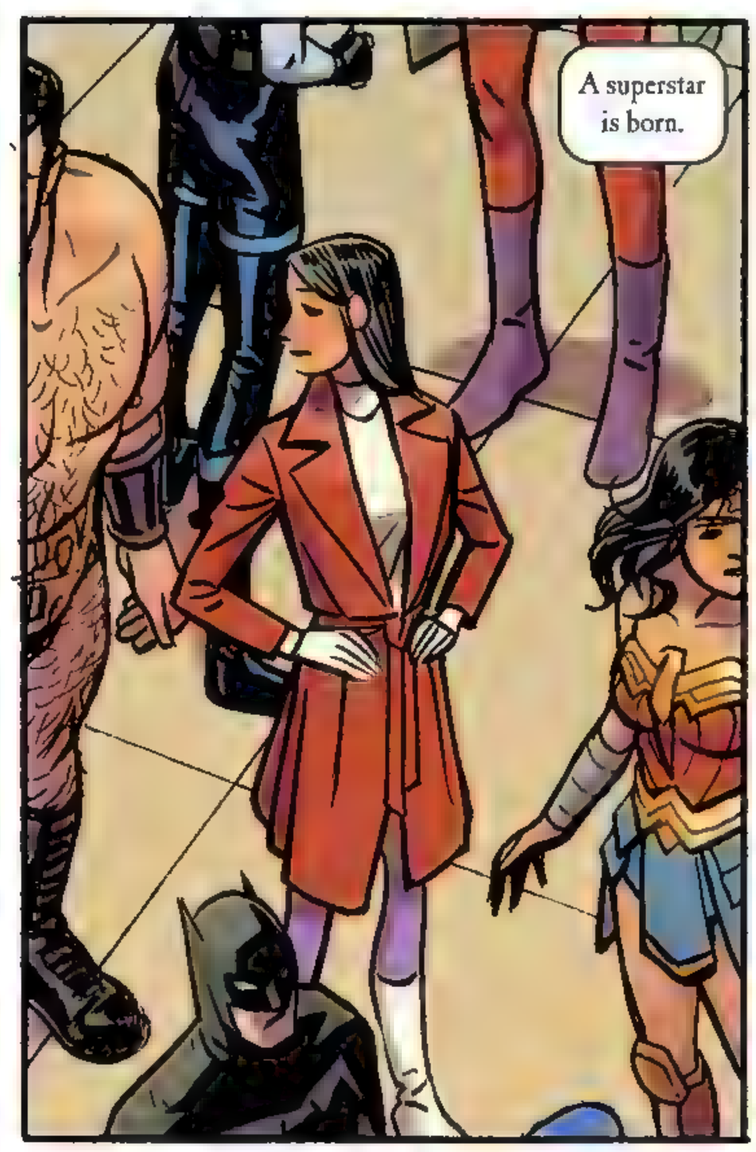
OKAY, CAROLINE... LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN HERE.

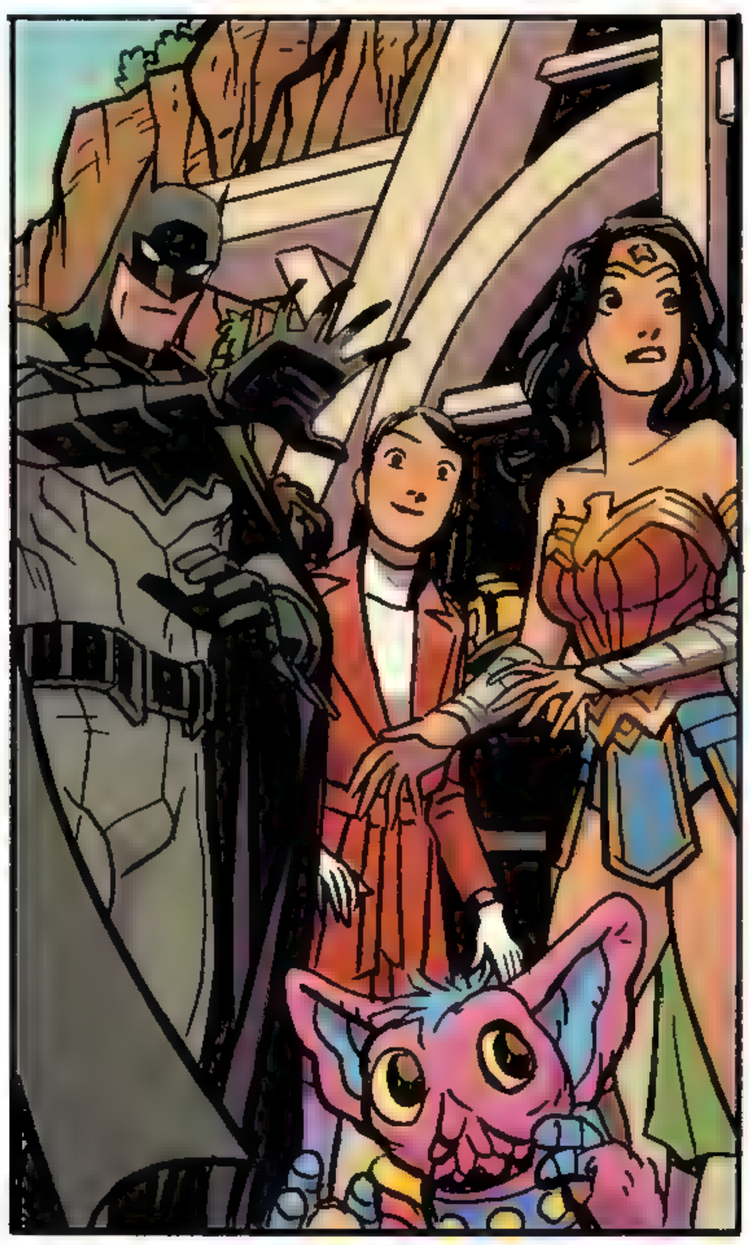
Pulled beyond *comprehension,* wide as creation and thin enough to thread the atom of *its* rebirth…

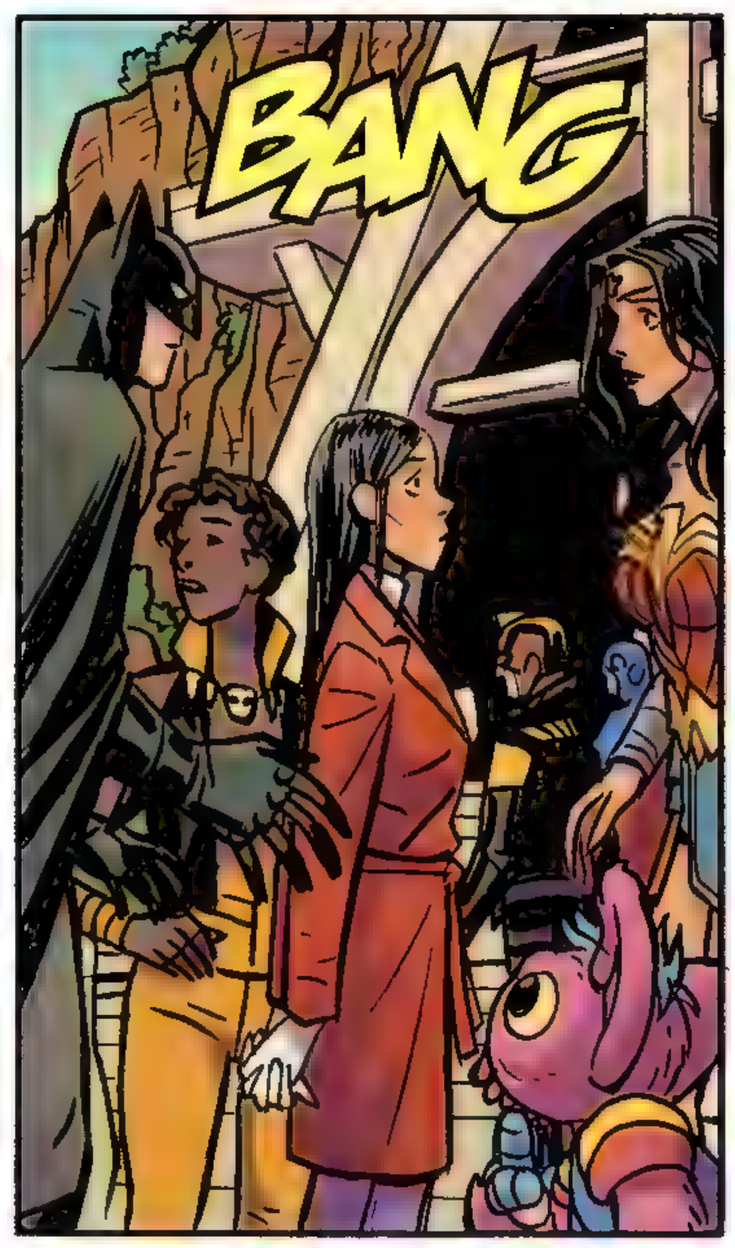
HAPPY HARBOR, RHODE ISLAND.



Rita Farr descends.


A superstar is born.

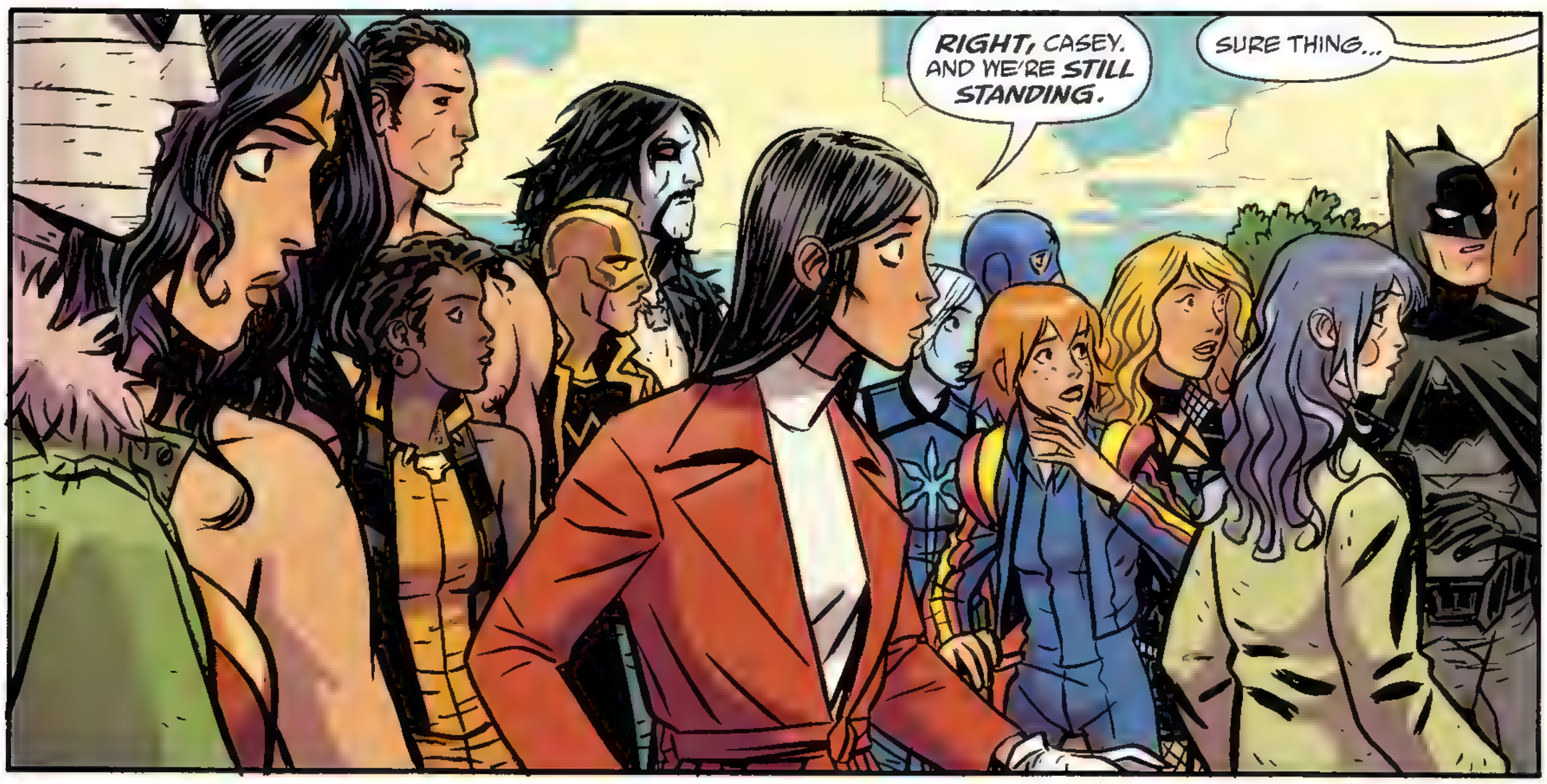



BANG

WHOA…AM I WRONG HERE, OR DID WE JUST HAVE A REALLY WEIRD DAY?
ATOM'S RIGHT…IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU DREAM ABOUT WAKING UP FOUR SECONDS BEFORE YOUR ALARM GOES OFF, BUT…
WE'VE BEEN IN A *FIGHT,* HAVEN'T WE?

I THINK SO, CANARY. REALITY'S GETTING COMFORTABLE IN ITS OWN SKIN. THERE ARE FLASHES, YEAH--DAIRY MACHINES. BOVINE STORM TROOPERS. A FINAL BATTLE IN A HEAVENLY CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS...

HALF-MEMORIES THAT DON'T QUITE FIT. AND RITA, ELASTI-GIRL...YOU WEREN'T IN ANY OF THEM. BUT THAT'S WRONG, RIGHT? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE TEAM...



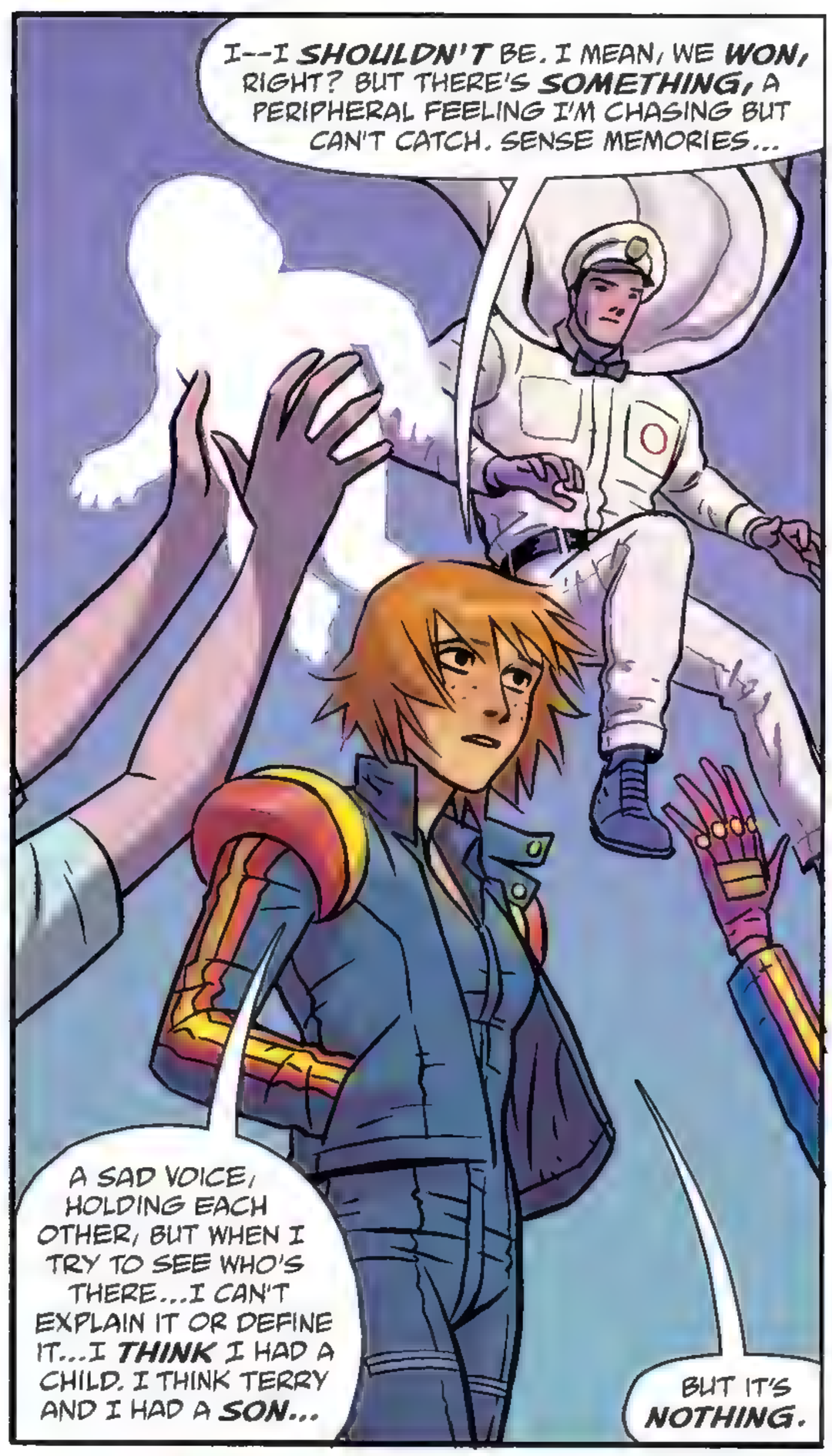
BUT SOME OF US ARE STRANGER THAN OTHERS.
SHIFTY SPACES
CLIFF!

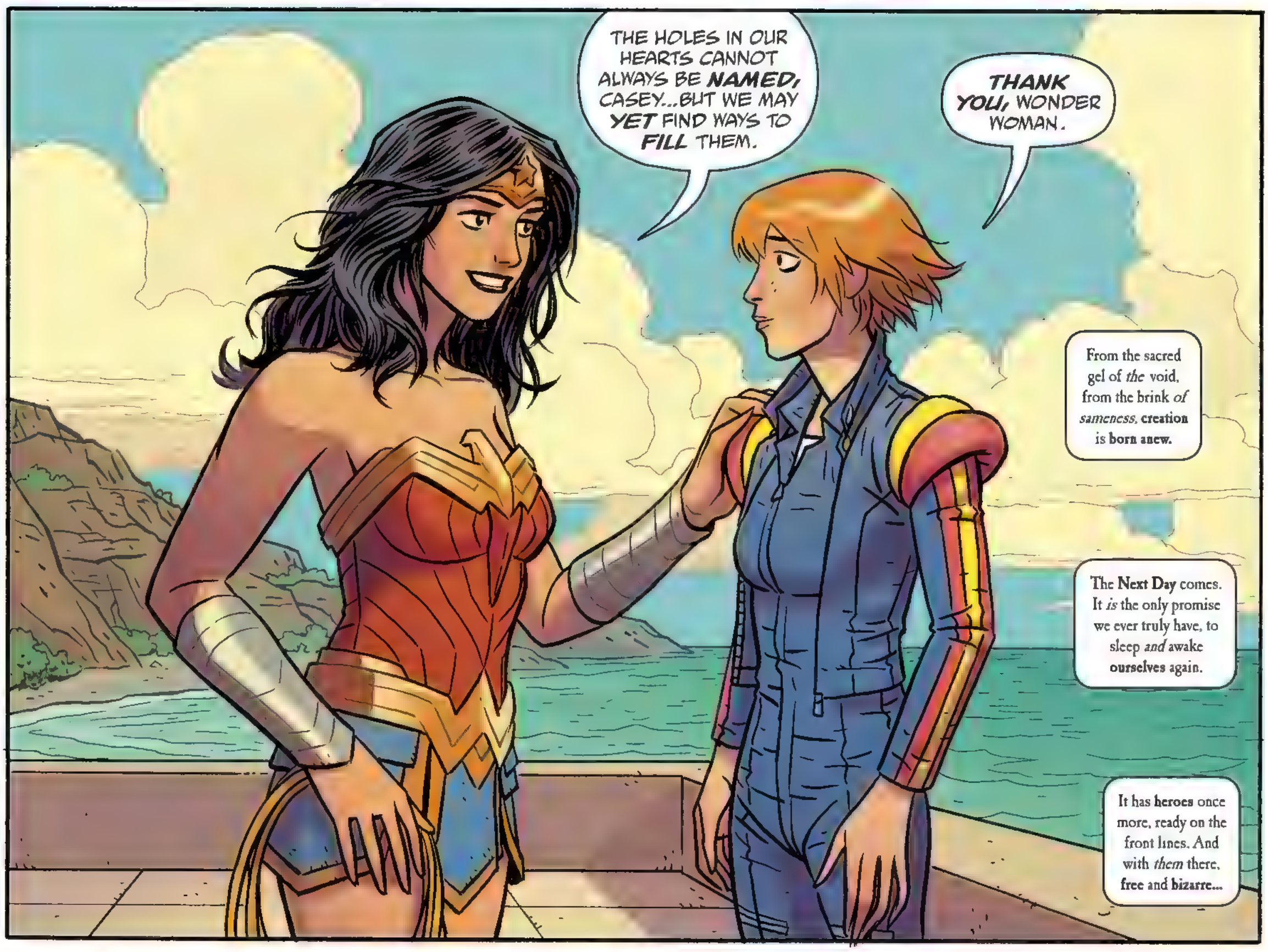
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH, JUST LIKE THA REST A' YA GOONS. JUST REMEMBER KNOWIN' I WAS FAKE...KNOWIN' IT, FER SOME REASON...

BUT WHATEVER THAT HOOEY WAS, ROBOTMAN'S REALER THAN DIRT NOW THAT RETCONN'S OUTTA THE PICTURE.

YOU ALMOST DIED, YOU BIG TIN CAN!
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT, I KNOW I'M EXCITIN', BUT ENOUGH OF THE SOFT HANDS ALREADY!
FUGG!
BUT I GOTTA SAY, LAR...I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH TIN'S LEFT IN THIS TIN MAN.

YOUR TEAM FOUGHT WELL, CASEY BRINKE. AS DID YOU.
THANK YOU, DIANA... BUT IT'S NOT MY TEAM. IT'S JANE'S.
NO WARRIOR ACTS BY HEART NOR MIND ALONE. YOU ARE THE DOOM PATROL'S HEART, CASEY. I SEE YOU...I KNOW YOU ARE IN PAIN.


I--I SHOULDN'T BE. I MEAN, WE WON, RIGHT? BUT THERE'S SOMETHING, A PERIPHERAL FEELING I'M CHASING BUT CAN'T CATCH. SENSE MEMORIES...
A SAD VOICE, HOLDING EACH OTHER, BUT WHEN I TRY TO SEE WHO'S THERE...I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT OR DEFINE IT...I THINK I HAD A CHILD. I THINK TERRY AND I HAD A SON...
BUT IT'S NOTHING.


THE HOLES IN OUR HEARTS CANNOT ALWAYS BE NAMED, CASEY...BUT WE MAY YET FIND WAYS TO FILL THEM.
THANK YOU, WONDER WOMAN.
From the sacred gel of *the* void, from the brink *of sameness,* **creation** is **born anew.**
The **Next Day** comes. It *is* the only promise we ever truly have, to sleep *and* awake **ourselves** again.
It has **heroes** once more, ready on the front lines. And with *them* there, **free** and **bizarre...**

MILK WARS: THE END

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WRITERS

DALE EAGLESHAM
ILLUSTRATION (MAIN STORY)

NICK DERINGTON
ILLUSTRATION (EPILOGUE)

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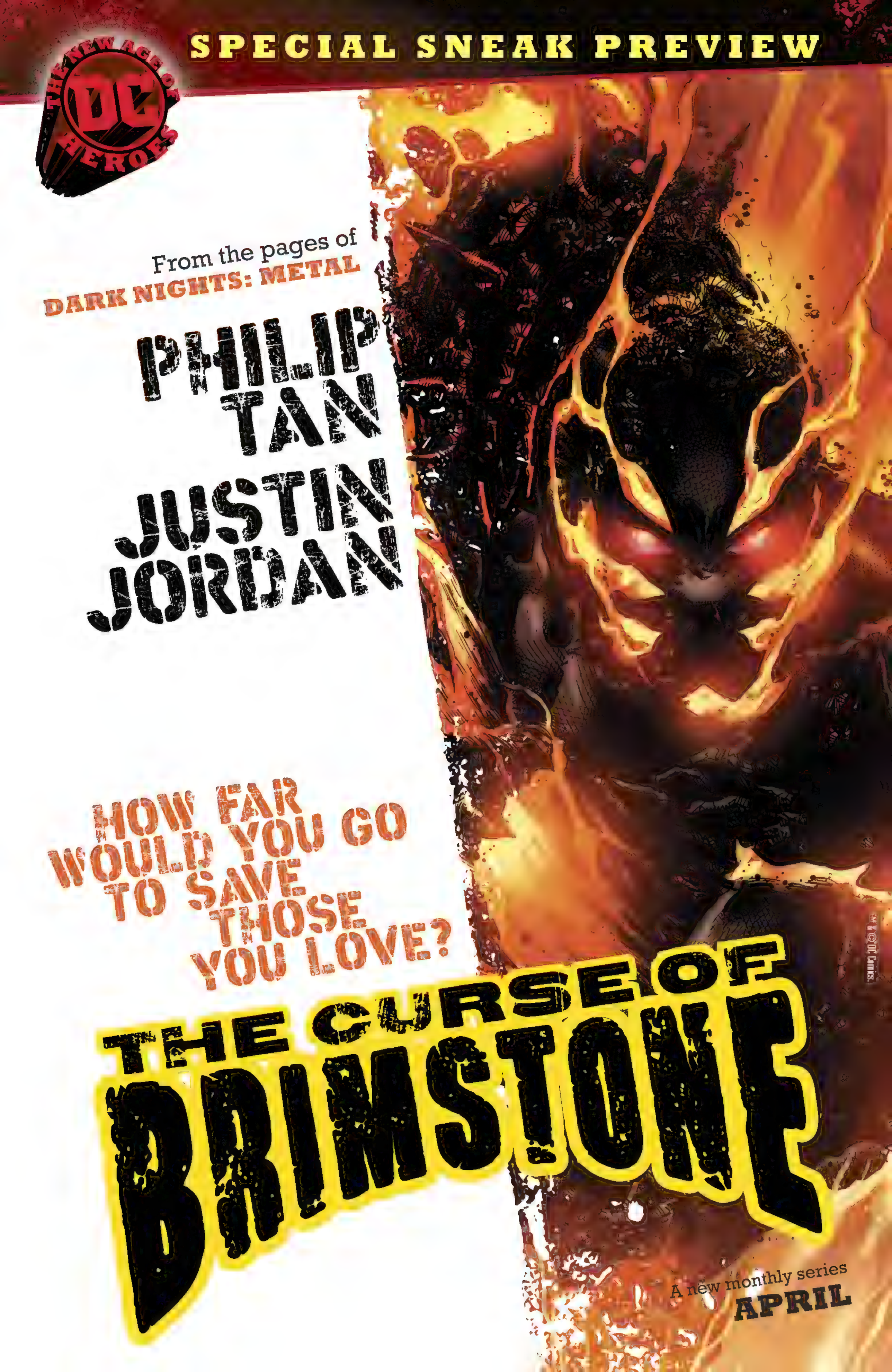
CLAY MANN & MARISSA LOUISE COVER **MOLLY MAHAN & JAMIE S. RICH** EDITORS
DOOM PATROL CREATED BY **ARNOLD DRAKE** **BATMAN** CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**
ADDITIONAL ART BY **SONNY LIEW, IBRAHIM MOUSTAFA, MICHAEL AVON OEMING** AND **MARLEY ZARCONE**


SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
THE NEW AGE OF HEROES
From the pages of
DARK NIGHTS: METAL
PHILIP TAN
JUSTIN JORDAN
HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO SAVE THOSE YOU LOVE?
THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE
A new monthly series
APRIL
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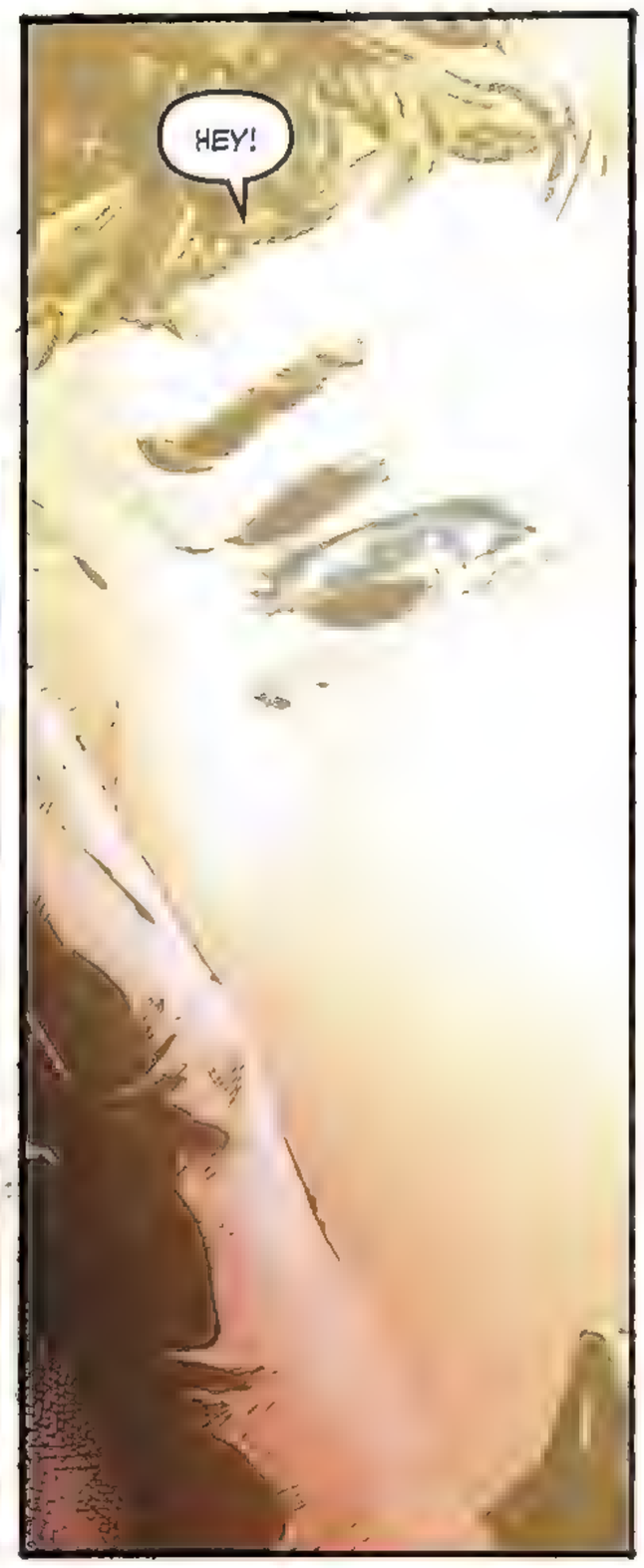

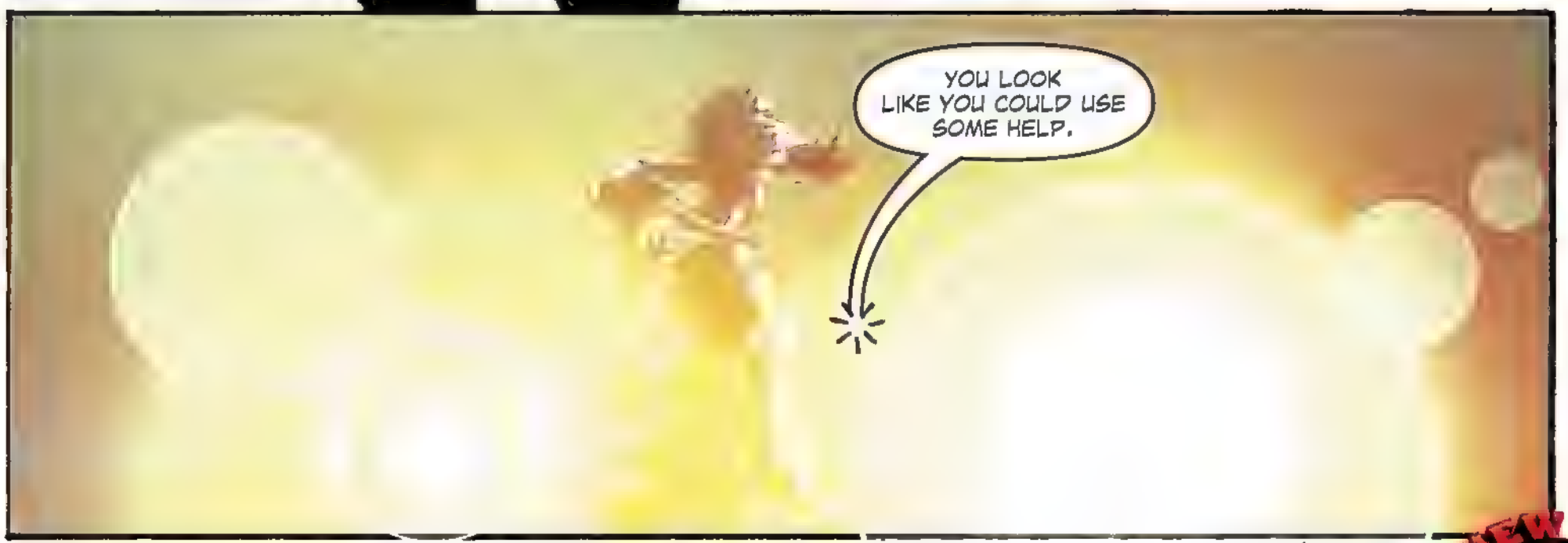

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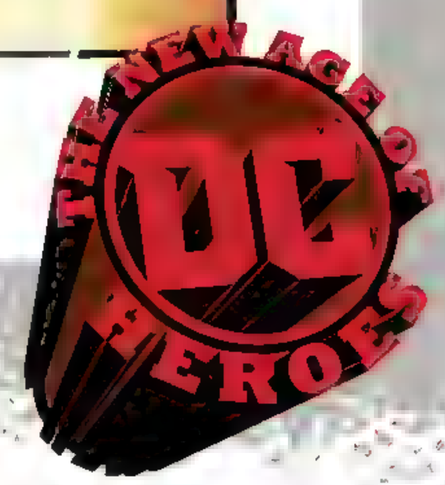
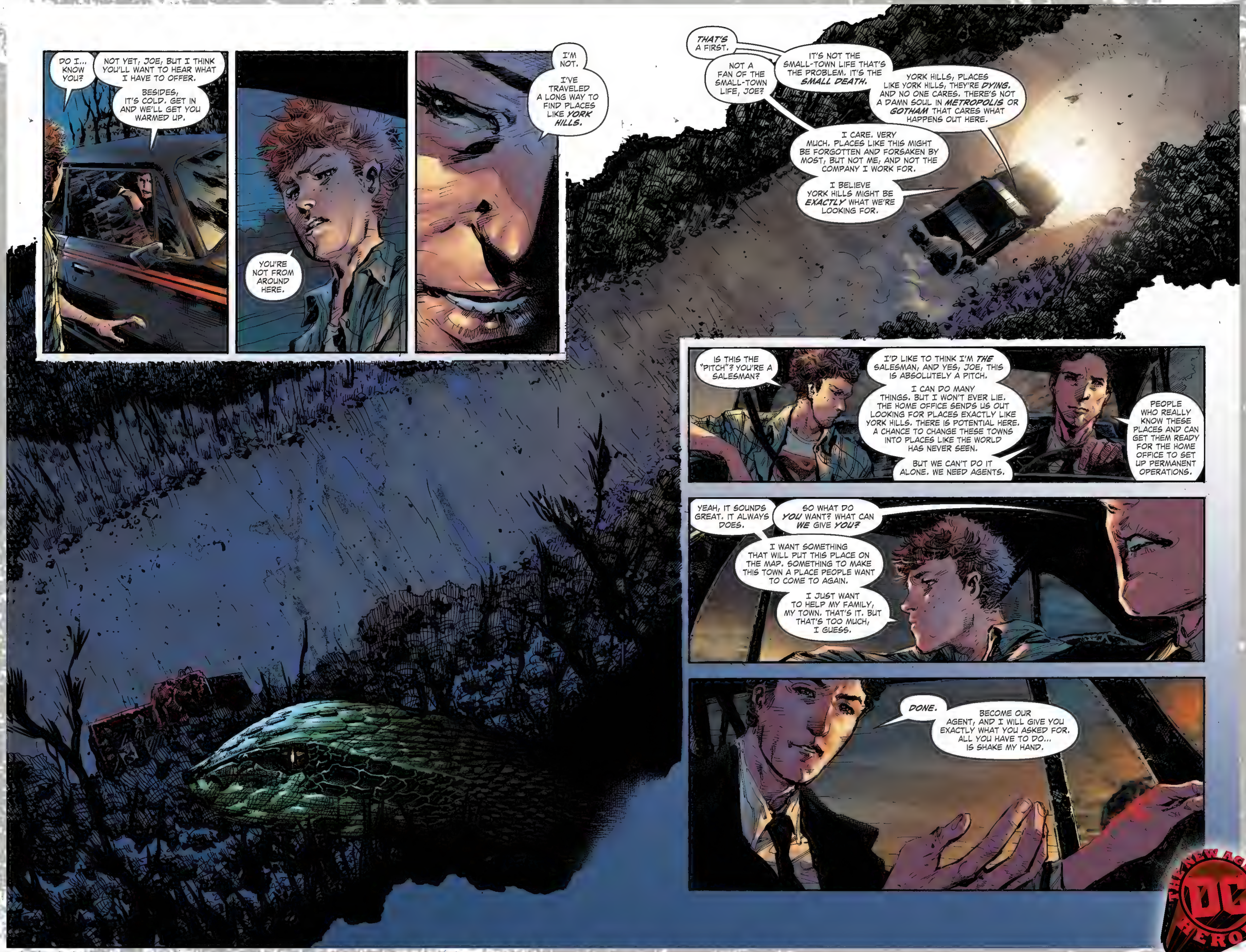
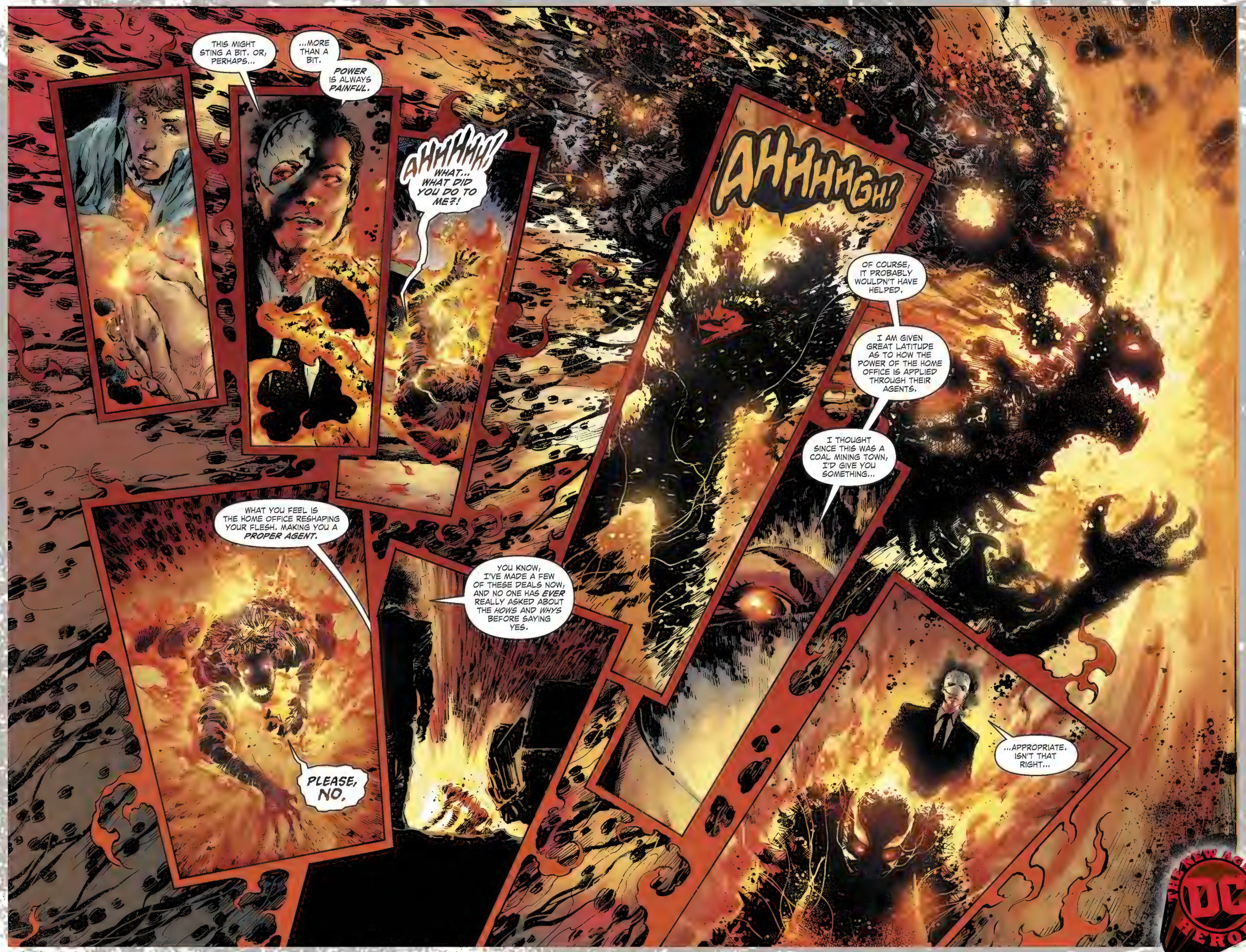



DO I... KNOW YOU?
NOT YET, JOE, BUT I THINK YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER.
BESIDES, IT'S COLD. GET IN AND WE'LL GET YOU WARMED UP.
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE.
I'M NOT.
I'VE TRAVELED A LONG WAY TO FIND PLACES LIKE *YORK HILLS.*
THAT'S A FIRST.
NOT A FAN OF THE SMALL-TOWN LIFE, JOE?
IT'S NOT THE SMALL-TOWN LIFE THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT'S THE *SMALL DEATH.*
YORK HILLS, PLACES LIKE YORK HILLS, THEY'RE *DYING.* AND NO ONE CARES. THERE'S NOT A DAMN SOUL IN *METROPOLIS* OR *GOTHAM* THAT CARES WHAT HAPPENS OUT HERE.
I CARE. VERY MUCH. PLACES LIKE THIS MIGHT BE FORGOTTEN AND FORSAKEN BY MOST, BUT NOT ME, AND NOT THE COMPANY I WORK FOR.
I BELIEVE YORK HILLS MIGHT BE *EXACTLY* WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
IS THIS THE "PITCH"? YOU'RE A SALESMAN?
I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M *THE* SALESMAN, AND YES, JOE, THIS IS ABSOLUTELY A PITCH.
I CAN DO MANY THINGS. BUT I WON'T EVER LIE. THE HOME OFFICE SENDS US OUT LOOKING FOR PLACES EXACTLY LIKE YORK HILLS. THERE IS POTENTIAL HERE. A CHANCE TO CHANGE THESE TOWNS INTO PLACES LIKE THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN.
BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE. WE NEED AGENTS.
PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW THESE PLACES AND CAN GET THEM READY FOR THE HOME OFFICE TO SET UP PERMANENT OPERATIONS.
YEAH, IT SOUNDS GREAT. IT ALWAYS DOES.
SO WHAT DO *YOU* WANT? WHAT CAN *WE* GIVE *YOU?*
I WANT SOMETHING THAT WILL PUT THIS PLACE ON THE MAP. SOMETHING TO MAKE THIS TOWN A PLACE PEOPLE WANT TO COME TO AGAIN.
I JUST WANT TO HELP MY FAMILY, MY TOWN. THAT'S IT. BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH, I GUESS.
DONE.
BECOME OUR AGENT, AND I WILL GIVE YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU ASKED FOR. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO... IS SHAKE MY HAND.


THIS MIGHT STING A BIT. OR, PERHAPS...
...MORE THAN A BIT.
POWER IS ALWAYS PAINFUL.
AHHHHH! WHAT... WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!
AHHHHGH!
OF COURSE, IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED.
I AM GIVEN GREAT LATITUDE AS TO HOW THE POWER OF THE HOME OFFICE IS APPLIED THROUGH THEIR AGENTS.
I THOUGHT SINCE THIS WAS A COAL MINING TOWN, I'D GIVE YOU SOMETHING...
WHAT YOU FEEL IS THE HOME OFFICE RESHAPING YOUR FLESH. MAKING YOU A PROPER AGENT.
YOU KNOW, I'VE MADE A FEW OF THESE DEALS NOW, AND NO ONE HAS EVER REALLY ASKED ABOUT THE HOWS AND WHYS BEFORE SAYING YES.
PLEASE, NO.
...APPROPRIATE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT...
THE NEW AGE OF HEROES
DC

DC COMICS™ PROUDLY PRESENTS:

THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE INFERNO part 1

PHILIP TAN & JUSTIN JORDAN storytellers
JUSTIN JORDAN dialogue
RAIN BEREDO colorist

WES ABBOTT letterer
TAN & BEREDO cover
JESSICA CHEN editor

BRIMSTONE created by JUSTIN JORDAN & PHILIP TAN

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE CURSE OF BRIMSTONE #1 ON SALE IN APRIL

THE NEW AGE OF HEROES DC

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THE SILENCER

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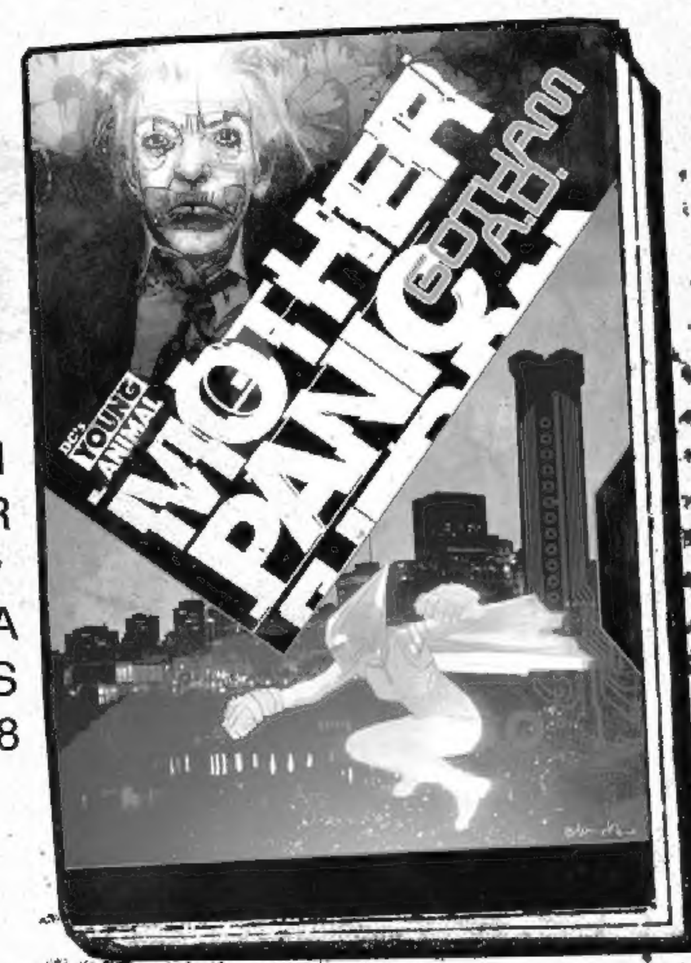
SHADE, THE CHANGING WOMAN #1
Written by CECIL CASTELLUCCI
Art and variant cover by
MARLEY ZARCONE
Backup feature art by JAMIE COE
Cover by BECKY CLOONAN
In stores 3/7

ETERNITY GIRL #1
Written by MAGDALENE VISAGGIO
Art and cover by SONNY LIEW
Variant cover by
PAULINA GANUCHEAU
In stores 3/14

CAVE CARSON HAS AN INTERSTELLAR EYE #1
Written by JON RIVERA
Art and cover by MICHAEL
AVON OEMING
Variant cover by
CHRISTIAN WARD
In stores 3/21



MOTHER PANIC: GOTHAM A.D. #1
Written by JODY HOUSER
Art and variant cover by
IBRAHIM MOUSTAFA
Cover by TOMMY LEE EDWARDS
In stores 3/28

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